NBI finally arrests former Quezon governor

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001 ★ 74 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 271 ₱15

News website has nothing to hide

WALA NANG MAKIKIALAM SA BALITA!

TORONTO—It begins like any other newscast, with the presenter in front of a blue backdrop, a tiny portable microphone curving in front of her mouth. A few minutes later, the microphone is all she wears.

NOTHING/ A18

Abus released Reghis, Lamitan folk tell Senate

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE STORY of hostage Reghis Romero's supposed escape from the Abu Sayyaf was told from different viewpoints by residents of Lamitan, Basilan, during a Senate hearing yesterday.

One detail common to their stories was their observation that the real estate contractor did not actually escape but was allowed to leave by

ABUS/ A18

Ping hit for 'fake' report

Design flaw slows flow

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Draining Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake to avert flash floods may take several days, longer than initially estimated, as water yesterday trickled down the wrongly constructed canal.

The delay in draining the lake was expected to extend the stay of at least 36,655 people in evacuation centers.

A tall slope at the end of the canal and huge boulders blocked the water flow, according to Mt. Pinatubo resident volcanologist Jaime Sinsioco.

"There was some foul-up in monitoring during the construction of the gradient of the canal floor," said Raymundo Punongbayan, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

"Instead of having a good slope so that water can flow out vigorously, it was so gentle that you have a very sluggish flow," Punongbayan said.

He said the water flow was below expectations as the canal was designed to allow the gradual but continuous flow of water.

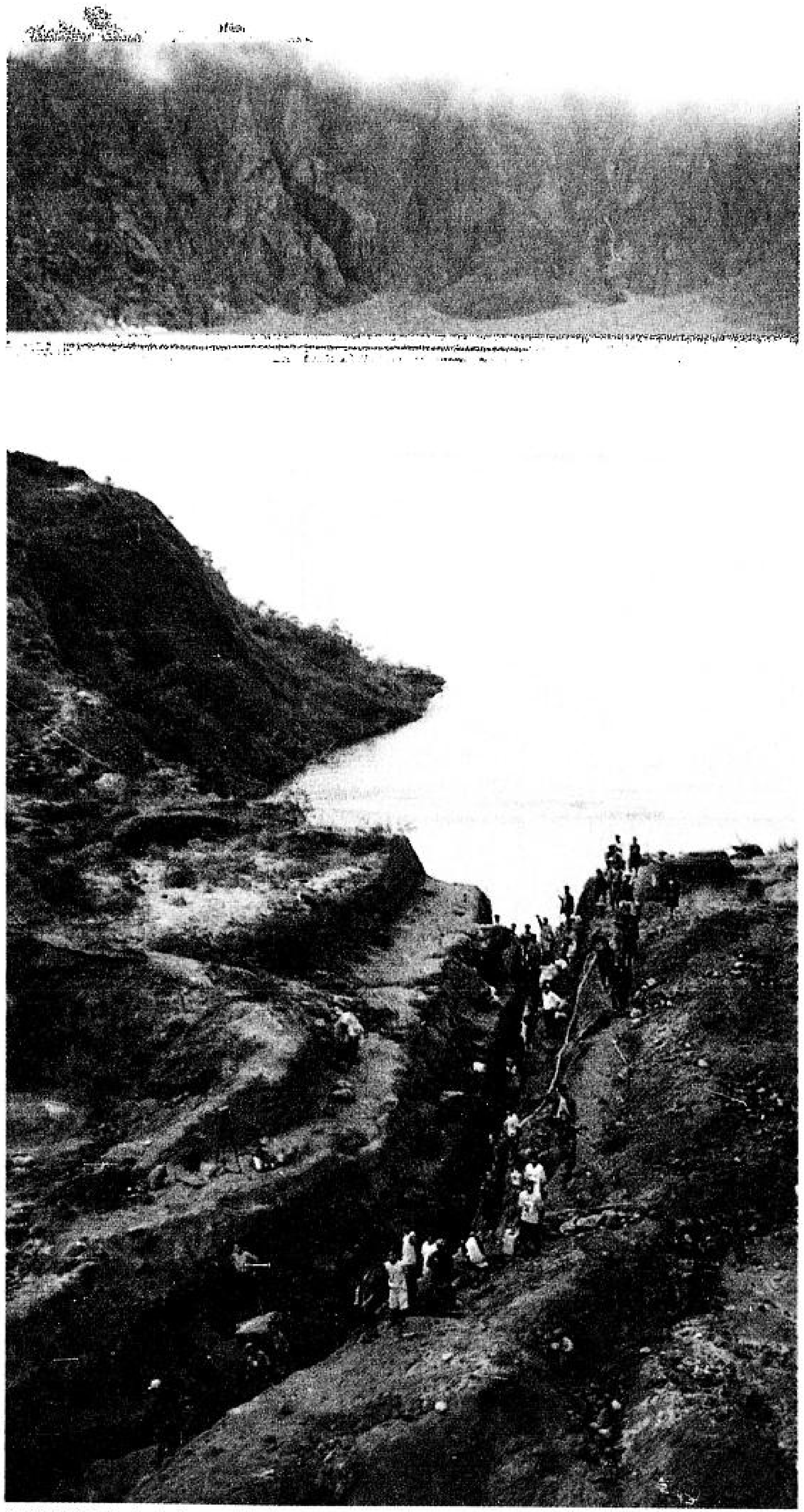
The canal is meant to drain about 25 percent of the lake's 200 million cubic meters into the nearby Bucao River and prevent rising water pressure from collapsing volcano walls.

At past 10 a.m. water gently flowed 110 meters below the canal without scouring the notch's soft surface and reaching the headwaters of the Maraunot River.

Punongbayan said flash floods from the volcano were now "out of the question. It has been established by the digging that the rock present is not as soft as envisioned."

He had originally cited a "20-percent chance of the worst-case scenario" in which the crater unleashes a violent surge of water. The resulting landslide could travel 40 kilometers to Botolan in an hour and a half, he said.

DESIGN/ A17



DRIP-DROP, instead of a gushing water flow through the wrongly constructed 2-meter-wide, 4-meter-high and 75-meter-long canal from the crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo. ROGER MARGALLO

'A case of dagdag bawas'

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

SEN. PANFILO "Ping" Lacson presented a "fake and tampered" report to the Senate in a bid to show that US customs investigators consider ex-agent Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, a "witness without credibility," Col. Mario Chan, the supposed author of the report, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"There is only one report that I submitted and signed. And this report did not contain anything that is derogatory to Mary," said Chan, leader of a joint military and police intelligence team that traveled to California in June to investigate Lacson on suspicion of money laundering.

"It's either Lacson made up the purportedly derogatory report on Mary himself or *nakuryente siya* (he was fed false information). He was duped by whoever fed that report to him," Chan, now the Philippine military attaché to India, said in a phone interview.

He stressed that "the team reported what exactly happened in Hong Kong and San Francisco," and that the report that he submitted to his then superior, military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, did not contain the statements that Lacson has attributed to him.

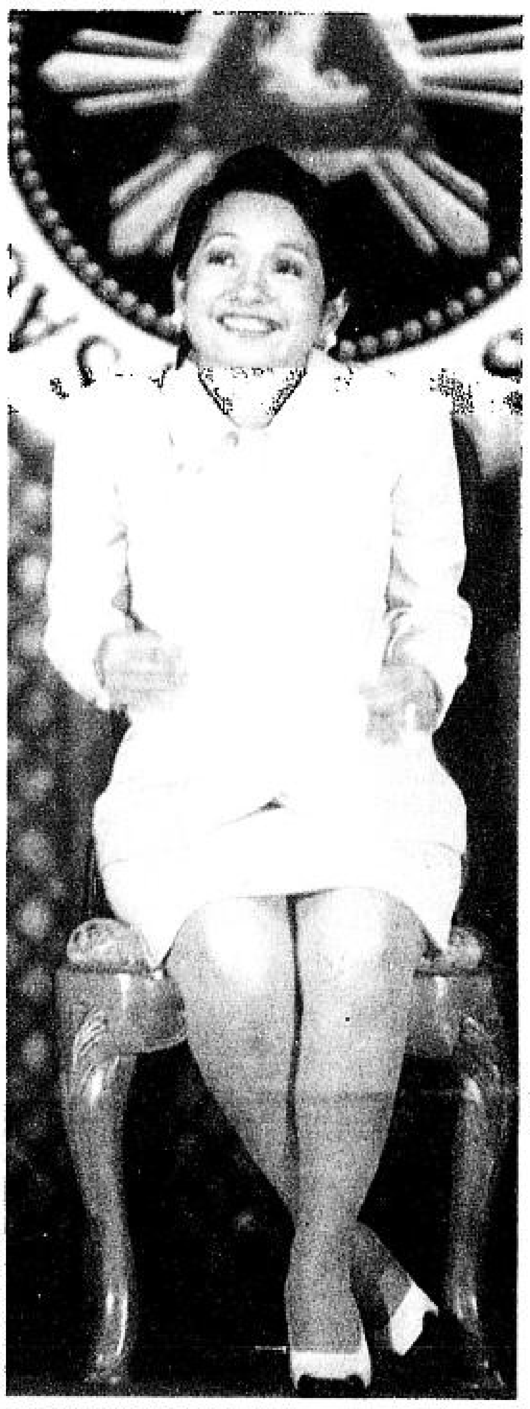
"It's a case of *dagdag-bawas* (adding-subtracting). How desperate can Lacson get? He wants to win the fight at my expense. *Talo na siya.* He is going down," Chan said.

"The truth is out. That's why in his desperation, he manufactured another version of my report," said the colonel, who led the mission as a senior officer of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp).

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza Jr., Chan's police counterpart on the six-member team, also accused Lacson of "tampering with" Chan's report.

Mendoza said he and Egdon Liscano, another team member from the Philippine National Po-

PING/ A20



EDWIN BACASMAS

GAGGLE OF GIGGLES: At the national convention on Thursday of the "Ahon Bayan" champions at the Heroes Hall at the Palace, President Macapagal gets a kick out of something or other.

Battle rages over 'Lacson resign' drive

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN,
TONTON A. ANTOGOP
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SHOULD Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson resign or stay? The battle is on.

"Mistahs" of Col. Victor Corpus are convinced that Lacson should not stay in office in view of his alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Retired Maj. Gen. Santos Gabison Jr., former chief of the Armed Forces' Visayas Command, said he and their other Cebu-based mistahs were throwing their support behind the military intelligence chief, who had accused Lacson of drug trafficking, money laundering and other crimes.

Gabison and Corpus belong to Class 1967 of the Philippine Military Academy.

Another retired general, Roger Deinla of PMA Class 1962, agreed that Lacson should step down.

BATTLE/ A20

Ang-See: We're neither pro- nor anti-Lacson

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

"WE ARE not supporting Ping," anti-crime crusader, Teresita Ang-See, categorically said yesterday.

She and her group, the Citizens Action against Crime (CAAC), are not rallying behind Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson but neither does Ang-See want to be "tricked" into taking a pro-Lacson or anti-Lacson stance," according to lawyer William Chua, spokesperson for Ang-See who's in Europe attending a two-week conference.

Ang-See stressed that she was not covering up for the former chief of the Philippine National Police.

In a statement prepared by her counsel, the Azcuna, Arroyo and Chua Law Offices, Ang-See said she has become the victim of an "insidious" campaign to malign her reputation by identifying her with suspicious elements.

Ang-See said she did not want to be drawn into a catfight with the principal witness against Lacson, Mary "Rosebud" Ong, who, she said, chose "for inexplicable reasons to weave a complicated tale, and twist the truth."

The former undercover agent, Mary Ong, had testified at the Senate that Ang-See had given Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop a videotape of kidnap victims undergoing torture allegedly at the hands of the

ANG-SEE/ A20

Women's groups rally round Mary

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

HOLDING a bouquet of roses from women's groups that cited her as a "Woman of Courage" yesterday, Mary "Rosebud" Ong said she hoped that when people saw those flowers, "they would remember me not as a Chinese woman, but a symbol of pluck in the eyes of evil men."

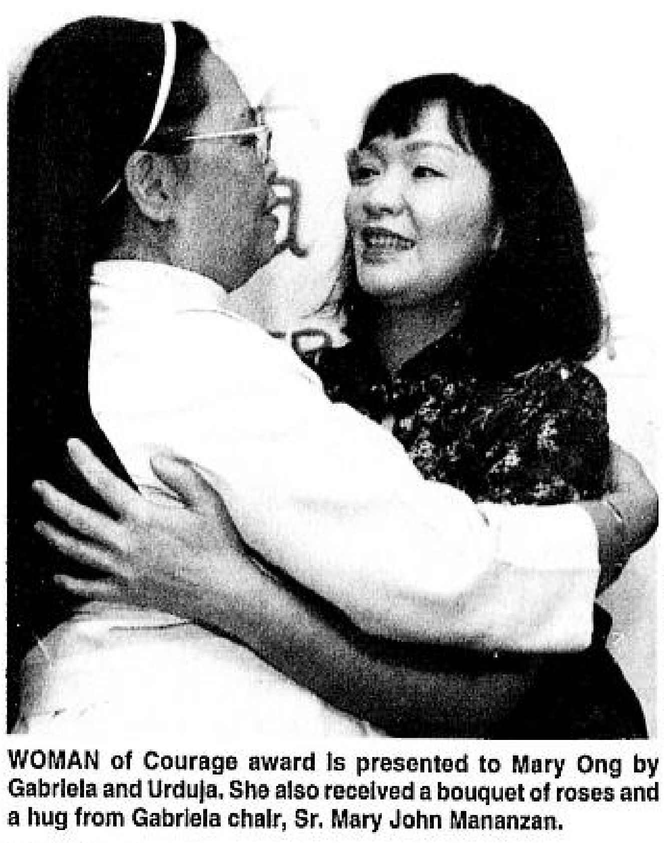
Leaders of different women's groups took turns heaping praises on a teary-eyed Ong during simple rites in Quezon City, following Sen. Panfilo Lacson's branding of the ex-narcotics agent as a "witness without credibility."

The groups, led by Gabriela and Urduja, bestowed the recognition on Ong for testifying against the former chief of the Philippine National Police and his closest aides.

During the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada, the same organizations gave the same recognition to Clarissa Ocampo, Emma Lim and Menchu Itchon, three witnesses whose independent testimony lent credence to the charges of corruption against him.

Ong's tears fell as she accepted the bouquet from Gabriela chair Sis-

WOMEN'S/ A20



DENNIS SABANGAN

WOMAN of Courage award is presented to Mary Ong by Gabriela and Urduja. She also received a bouquet of roses and a hug from Gabriela chair, Sr. Mary John Mananzan.

Gov't men linked to drugs face stiff sanctions–Palace

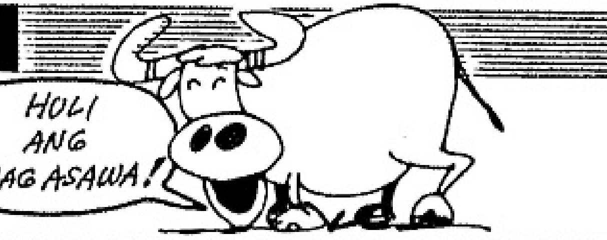
BY MARTIN P. MARFIL
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

MALACAÑANG has warned government employees that they face suspension on mere suspicion of involvement in facilitating the entry of illegal drugs into the country.

The suspension could be imposed despite lack of evidence, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said.

He issued the warning as he disclosed that the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) would investigate the allegation that foreign-based drug syndicates had infiltrated several government agencies.

GOV'T/ A20


HULI ANG MAG ASAWA!

Ex-gov falls, finally

By M. Ubac

FORMER Quezon governor Eduardo Rodriguez was finally arrested by Interpol agents at a Makati parking lot early yesterday in connection with an extradition request by the United States.

Rodriguez is wanted for alleged insurance fraud committed in the US in 1985. It was only in February 1999, however, that the US Department of Justice asked its local counterpart for help in extraditing Rodriguez.

After his arrest, Rodriguez was reunited at the National Bureau of Investigation with his wife, Imelda, who was herself arrested days ago in the same complaint.

"She was crying while hugging the governor," said NBI special investigator James Tusoc.

Under surveillance

The couple had been under surveillance but only Mrs. Rodriguez was arrested Tuesday at a Makati condominium when it turned out Eduardo was not in the unit.

The couple have maintained their innocence, insisting they are not fugitives from US justice.

They will remain at the NBI jail while the extradition case is being heard by Branch 17 of the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The couple has been barred from posting bail during the trial. Under the RP-US extradition treaty, a local court will determine if there is merit to the extradition request by the US.

Interpol agents collared Eduardo at a parking lot near Anson's department store in Makati at about 6:30 a.m.

Tusoc said Rodriguez was presumably on his way to Quezon province when he was nabbed by eight Interpol agents led by Roel Bolivar and Emeterio Armada.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday, Bolivar's men tailed a Toyota Corolla as it left a Pasay City condominium where Rodriguez was believed to be staying and headed toward Makati.

Stakeout

The driver drove to the parking lot behind the Dusit Hotel near Anson's, Tusoc said.

"We waited for 10 minutes. Just when we were about to confront the driver, a bodyguard of Rodriguez's approached the car. We knew then that Rodriguez was around," he said.

They then saw Rodriguez walking toward the car. At this point, the agents announced the arrest.

Rodriguez tried to escape but stopped when he heard a warning shot. His driver and bodyguard fled in the car.

The couple is wanted in connection with a criminal complaint filed by a US insurance company against Eduardo.

Rodriguez had allegedly declared that his wife and her mother, Gloria Gener, had died and he produced death certificates to claim insurance benefits.

When the company discovered that Rodriguez's wife and mother-in-law were alive, they impleaded Imelda in the suit.

$2-M bail

A US court has recommended $2-million bail each for the couple.

Rodriguez was alleged to have collected $150,000 in death benefits based on the fraudulent claims.

Rodriguez has flatly denied the charges.

He said no less than the Supreme Court resolved that he was "not a fugitive from justice" in a 1996 ruling, which upheld his electoral victory in the Quezon gubernatorial race over Bienvenido Marquez Jr.

In last May's elections, Rodriguez ran again and lost.

RODRIGUEZ at the NBI after his arrest

Mark Jimenez seeks support from colleagues

WHO wants to side with House's top millionaire?

Congressmen may have to think about this as they go on a recess starting today, for they will soon be asked to determine once and for all the "status" of a controversial colleague, Mark Jimenez.

A draft House resolution has been circulating this week calling on the committee on justice to decide on the status of Jimenez, who is facing extradition to the United States.

Officially listed as Mario Crespo in the House roll, Jimenez bagged a House seat for Manila's 6th District despite a string of criminal charges awaiting him in US courts for tax evasion, mail fraud, and illegal campaign contributions.

Filed today

The resolution is expected to be filed today with the 43-member House committee on justice chaired by Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, according to a House source.

The source said some 60 congressmen had already signed the resolution as of yesterday, including Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Quoting from the resolution, the source said the document expressed concern that extraditing Jimenez would "effectively deprive" his Manila constituents of "able representation" in the 12th Congress.

It also raised the question of whether allowing the Department of Justice to surrender Jimenez as a fugitive to US courts "borders on violating the principle of separation of powers" between the executive and legislature.

Notably, the source said, the draft indicated that no congressman has volunteered to be named principal author of the resolution.

Should the resolution prosper, the ensuing inquiry would require the attendance of representatives from the DOJ and possibly the US Embassy in Manila.

Last month and well into Jimenez's congressional term, US Embassy charge d'affairs Michael Malinowski reiterated his government's pending request for the lawmaker's extradition, saying that while Washington has had extradited Filipinos, Manila has yet to fulfill its obligation under the RP-US extradition treaty.

A known crony of deposed President Joseph Estrada, Jimenez was recently reported to be the House's richest congressman with a net worth of P355.8 million.

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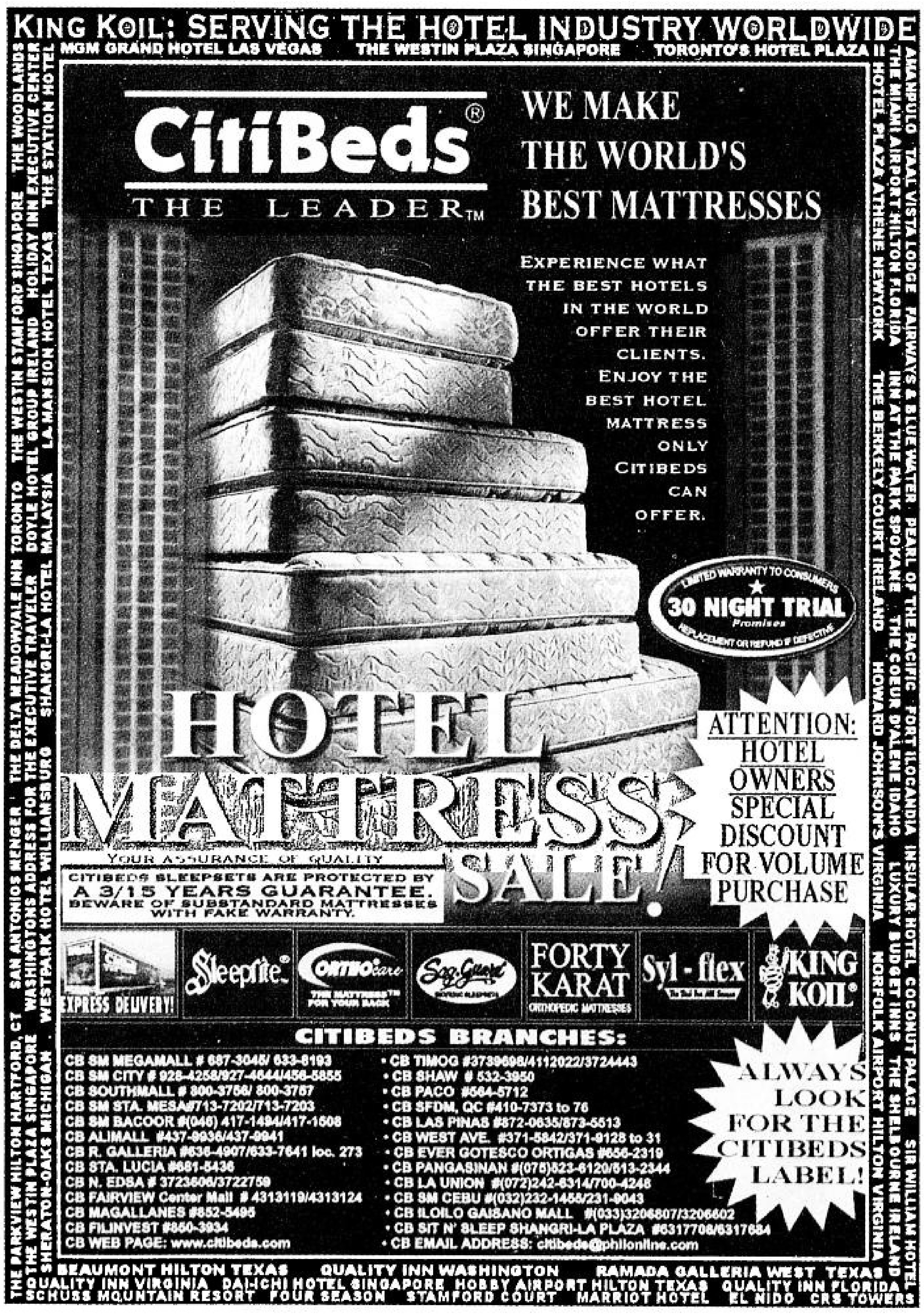
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New energy body freezes power rates

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE NEWLY installed chair of the Energy Regulatory Commission yesterday said the ERC was suspending action on all petitions for rate increases for three months to be able to attend to more urgent matters on implementing the power reform law.

The power rate increase petitions include that of Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co., which had been pending since April last year.

ERC chair Fe Barin told reporters talks that the commission would drop Meralco's petition, saying the ERC "requested them to bear with us."

"It's not that the petitions are not important, we just need time to study the cases since we are all new on the job," Barin said.

Barin and the four commissioners were named only last month, but the ERC was officially formed upon the effectivity of the Electricity Industry Reform Act last June.

She said the commission was currently busy with ironing out the implementation of sections of the law directly affecting its functions.

These include:

- Section 28, which provides for the dispersal of ownership and demonopolization of utilities.
- Section 32, which tackles National Power Corp.'s unpaid financial obligations, including contracts with private power producers.
- Section 39, which exempts ERC's chair and commissioners from the Salary Standarization Act.

Also, Barin said they still had to determine whether the petitioners for rate increases should submit additional documents in view of the power reform law.

Earlier, Meralco sources said the firm's profitability was expected to go down by at least 30 percent this year if its petition for a rate hike is not granted.

The firm's return on rate base would further slide to between 4.2 and 4.4 percent if there was no rate adjustment.

Last month, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez made headlines when he said he believed Meralco's petition should be granted.

"I personally believe any regulator should strike a balance between making power affordable to the consumer but equally attractive to any investor in the market that they would get a decent rate of return," Perez said.

Gloria blows top over rice storage

BY M. P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo blew her top yesterday after learning that about 1.2 million sacks of rice had been kept in a private warehouse for several months.

The incident happened in Mabini, Batangas, where the warehouses said to be owned by a Manny Tan were located.

Ms Macapagal made a surprise visit there yesterday morning after learning that the shipment had not been distributed to winning bidders and simply stored.

"She was worried, because under PL (Public Law) 480, although this was already bidded out, this is a grant, there is residual government responsibility," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said during a press briefing.

"'This is being given by the US government and they might say that their grants are left rotting. Government has to step in," he added.

Ms Macapagal decided to visit the place after she was informed the other night that the sacks were stored in a warehouse.

Together with Agriculture Undersecretary Cesar Drilon and National Food Authority administrator Anthony Abad, Ms Macapagal flew to the warehouse and ordered the sacks brought to NFA warehouses for distribution to the bidders.

"Her concern was that this was a private port and government might pay storage fees... and she wanted to ensure that the rice would not rot," Tiglao said.

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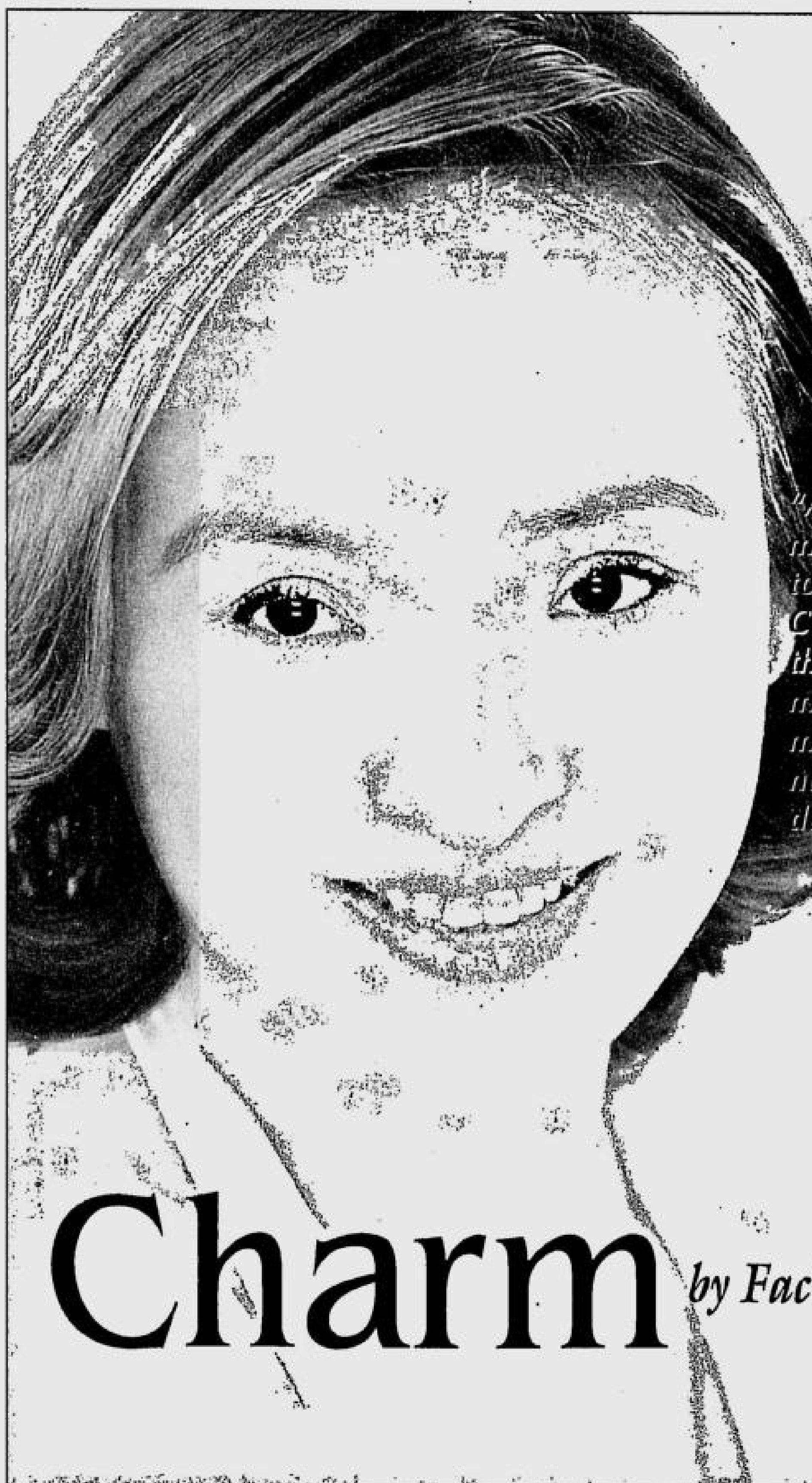

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EXTORTION IN CONGRESS?

Solons seek probe of House 'gang of 5'

BY R. NAZARENO

THE HOUSE of Representatives will look into allegations that five congressmen, dubbed the Gang of Five, have been engaged in extortion.

The latest incident reportedly occurred during the House hearings on the reduction by Smart Philippines and Globe Telecom of the number of free text messages they would allow subscribers.

House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER that Speaker Jose de Venecia "will not take the allegations sitting down and would want at least an informal investigation to clear the name of the institution."

"I am sure the Speaker would want the name of the House to be kept clean," Gonzales said.

In a radio interview, House ethics committee chair Rep. Antonio Abaya (Isabela) said the extortion reports have put the House in a "bad light."

"All of us are affected by the reports. If one congressman files a complaint, a resolution would be enough (to justify a probe). If a private party has a complaint, the charge should be made in writing and under oath," Abaya said.

Earlier reports (not in the INQUIRER) identified the five congressmen as Representatives Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental), Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur), Aniceto Saludo (Southern Leyte), Rolex Suplico (Iloilo) and Eduardo Veloso (Leyte).

The five were alleged to have asked for P2 million each from Smart and Globe when the House committee on transportation and communications was investigating the reduction in the number of free text messages allowed subscribers by the phone firms. Paras chairs the committee.

The five were also alleged to have initiated congressional probes of other controversial business transactions for the purpose of exacting money from the businessmen involved.

The five have denied involvement in any extortion activities.

In a press statement, Pichay said, "(The reports) are false, malicious and the apparent product of a smear campaign to pressure the House on the issue (of free text messages)," Pichay said.

The Mindanao solon said he has been preoccupied with the congressional probe on the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan to have involved himself in the telecoms controversy.

Pichay is chairman of the House committee on national defense.

He called on De Venecia and the committee on ethics to conduct a speedy investigation of the extortion charges reportedly raised by Representatives Oscar Rodriguez, Jesli Lapus and Gilbert Remulla.

Pichay also called on Lapus to identify the businessmen who had allegedly complained about legislators asking for money.

"The result of this irresponsible story is that my good name has been maligned and, unfortunately, some of our colleagues have issued off-the-cuff statements instead of waiting for a probe into this so-called Gang of Five," Pichay said.

After the House hearings, Globe and Smart staggered their free text messages reduction scheme. The Quezon City Regional Trial Court has since issued a temporary restraining order barring any reduction for 20 days.

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1st Reading: **Col 1:15-20**
Gospel: **Lk 5:33-39**

Some people asked him, "The disciples of John fast often and say long prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why is it that your disciples eat and drink?" Then Jesus said to them, "You can't make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them. But later the bridegroom will be taken from them and they will fast in those days."

Jesus also told them this parable, "No one tears a piece from a new coat to put it on an old one; otherwise the new will be torn and the piece taken from the new will not match the old. No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed as well. But new wine must be put into fresh skins. Yet no one who has tasted old wine is eager to get new wine, but says: The old is good."

Commentary

In the gospels, Jesus is not free from controversies. His opponents ask him why his disciples do not fast, while the followers of the scribes and Pharisees do. Jesus' disciples seem to be always eating and drinking, not praying. Jesus simply answers they too will fast when he is taken away from them. Not praying? How can they not, they are with Jesus. In this controversy, Jesus brings out an important teaching. With his coming, he is inaugurating a new era, the messianic times, symbolized by the new coat and the new wine. Jesus asks to accept it with a new lifestyle, which is symbolized by fresh skins. Living in the new times inaugurated by Jesus demands new and fresh response of faith in Jesus as the messiah, the new teacher sent by God.

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DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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We are now confronted with a clear, targeted and consistent direction to how else we may support our professionals. In fact, pursuing all of these depending on the field that our graduates will take compliments and reflects how the educational system in the Philippines has remained relevant, comprehensive and competitive. Our **KAPLAN** programs are just made available to sharpen the student's readiness skills as they take the US examinations. We equip them with the tools needed for them to perform their best in these exams. We have reached the time when the actualization of the Filipino's potential has been most urgent and crucial for us to survive and thrive in the 21st century. In an evolving environment, we have to take it among ourselves to encourage them to learn what is new and good either this be inside the classroom or in a work setting for them to continue to take on greater challenges. **The time of the Filipino has arrived.**

With this, there is a need to recognize **KAPLAN**'s role as a major stepping stone in the realization of many of the Filipinos to find their niche in the world, only for the reason that our fellow Filipinos have yet to know that such an entity like **KAPLAN** exists. The diversity of tests and the people taking the standardized exams is a fundamental characteristic that we have mastered ensuring that each structure can accommodate the students' needs. **KAPLAN** has been in the field without equal. Each course and structure remains as vital and of critical importance to any students wanting to score high in the exams. We are in the business of building confidence and fulfilling dreams.

Messages

It is with great pride and pleasure that I convey my sincerest congratulations to **Kaplan Education Center Philippines** as it inaugurates its fourth center in the country.

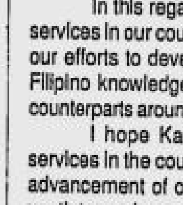
We are witness to the fact that more opportunities are being made available to our professionals because of advances in today's age of globalization. New lifestyles and work patterns require shifts towards this new world order and the pursuance of further studies to meet the needs of the changing environment.

In this regard, I salute Kaplan for offering its world-class educational services in our country. Its partnership with our government will greatly help in our efforts to develop the capabilities of our human resource and produce Filipino knowledge workers who are at par and able to compete with their counterparts around the globe.

I hope Kaplan will continue to render high quality educational services in the country. May you continue to be our partner in working for the advancement of our country's education and guiding and empowering our youth towards more successful participation in the 21st century.

MABUHAY!

GMArroyo
Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President Republic of the Philippines



My greetings to Kaplan Educational Centers on the occasion of the opening of the fourth Kaplan Center in the Philippines.

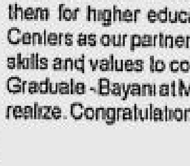
People are the Philippines' greatest wealth. In an age where the traditional engines of growth like land and capital are being replaced by intellect, information and creativity, any endeavor to invest in human resources must be lauded. In the effort to measure our student's competence and prepare them for higher education, we look to organizations like Kaplan Educational Centers as our partners in our goal of producing graduate heroes who are able in skills and values to contribute meaningfully and productively to society. "Bawat Graduate - Bayani at Marangal" is the vision we strive to realize. Congratulations and more power!

Raul S. Roco
Hon. Raul Roco
Secretary, Department of
Education Culture and Sports

The City Council of Manila and our constituents welcome the KAPLAN-Philippines center to our historic city. We also acknowledge the importance of the center as it is strategically placed in the heart of the country's educational sector where it will serve the most number of students and professionals. The efforts made by the Management and Staff for revolutionizing the importance of education as the indispensable tool for the development of the individual and the society have to be commended. As their graduates obtain their foreign degrees and training- and the skills, knowledge and values that come with these, they return to the country as productive members. We support the company's thrust of academic involvement in the country. It is with sincere confidence that those who have gone through KAPLAN's programs will be effectively prepared to confront the challenges of these changing times.

Again, congratulations and best wishes to the people behind this endeavor

Hon. Lito Atienza
City Mayor - Manila



As President and CEO of Kaplan, I would like to congratulate you on your growth and achievements as you open your new center in downtown Manila, the fourth Kaplan center in the Philippines. The hard work and dedication of the Kaplan Philippines Team is evident in your continued expansion and success. You have played a vital role in making Kaplan a global leader in educational and career services. Kaplan is committed in helping students and professionals achieve their educational and career goals. In our 63-year history, more than three million students have prepared with Kaplan university entrance and professional licensure exams. We continue to provide the highest quality test-preparation and admissions consulting services in our centers and on the internet at www.kaptest.com.

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GMAT & GRE	SEP 18, 6PM, CEBU
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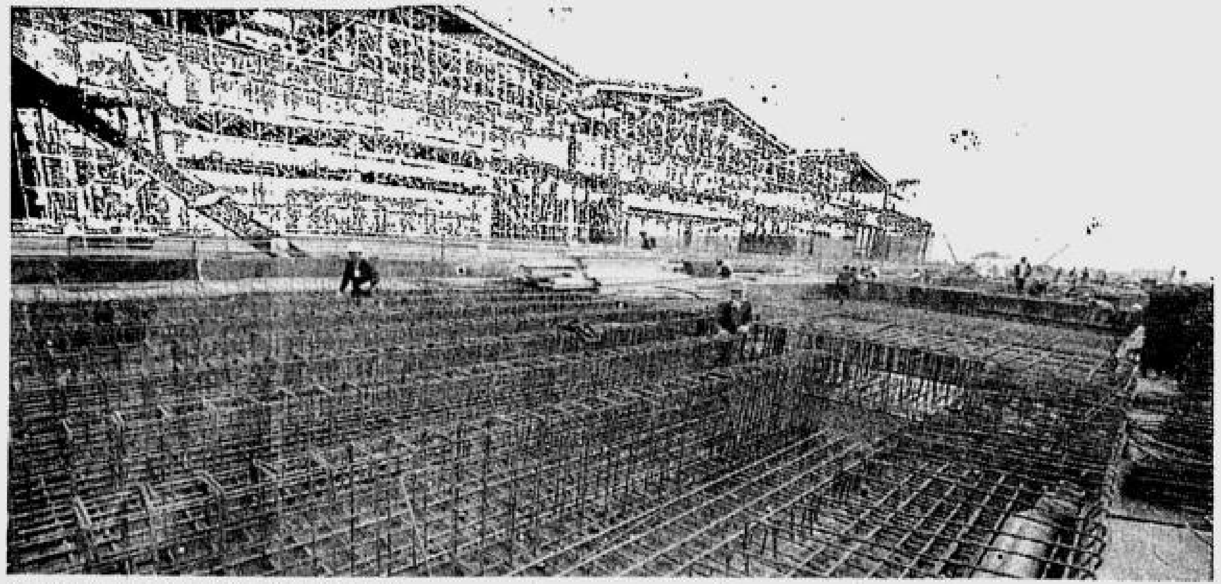
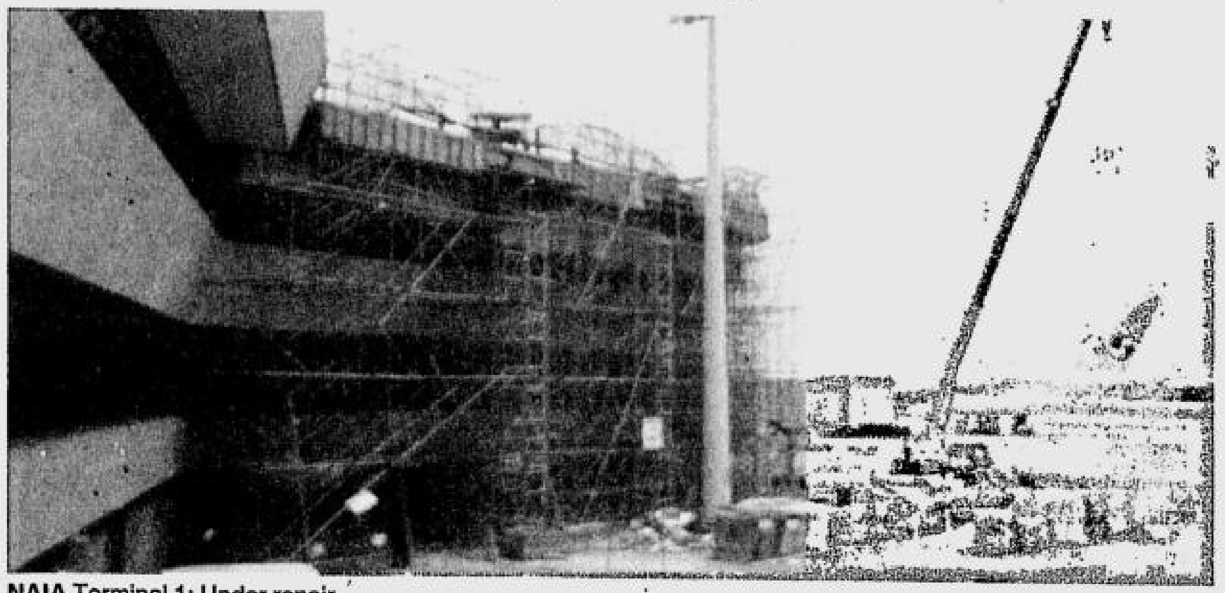


NAIA Terminal 3: Under construction.



NAIA Terminal 1: Under repair.

In its final year, old Naia 1 undergoes P40-M repair

By TJ Burgonio

WHY are airport officials spending more than P40 million to repair the old Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 1 with only a year to go before it stops operations?

Structural repairs are now being done on the roof decks, columns and steel trusses in four of the 14 gates of the 20-year-old terminal building following complaints of water leaks from some concessionaires.

Curiously, the repair work, which is estimated to cost from P44 million to P46 million, has been awarded to the Philippine National Construction Co. (PNCC) by the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) without any public bidding.

Engineer Elpidio Mendoza, assistant airport general manager for engineering, however, defended the repair of Gates 2, 7, 9, and 15, in Naia 1.

"The structural defects have become critical in nature so we have to act on them," he said.

Citing a November 2000 report by the PNCC-MIAA inspection team, he said that Gate 9, in its present state of disrepair, would probably collapse if an Intensity 4 earthquake hits Metro Manila.

Engineer Glenn Macabeo, who made the report, noted the following defects in Gate 9:

- The cantilever roof has deflected to about 25 cm, way beyond the allowable deflection range of 1.7 cm to 2.5 cm.
- There is 20-cm deep ponding in that portion of the roof.
- The ceiling under the deflected overhang has cracked.
- Panel gazing at Miascor office has cracked.
- The main supporting trusses were deformed and partially separated from the supporting column.

Mendoza said repair work at Gate 9 was already 50 percent finished. Work at the other gate is still ongoing.

Gates 15, 7 and 2, however, were also found to be suffering from such defects as roof deck ponding; steel joint failures; concrete load bearing failures and cracks in concrete columns.

Naia 1, which services international airplanes except the Philippine Airlines, will cease operations once the new international gateway, Naia 3, becomes operational in December 2002.

Mendoza also said he saw nothing illegal with the awarding of the repair contract to the PNCC without any public bidding.

Under PD 1594, which prescribes policies for government infrastructure contracts, the government can forego with bidding and go into negotiated contracts "to protect life and property," he said.

The emergency repair work at the Naia 1 falls under this category, Mendoza said. "If we went into bidding, which take weeks, and the structures collapsed, the people would have blamed me just the same."

The repair work, which started in December last year, is expected to be finished next month.

Dick eyes win-win for casuals

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday asked the government to include wage adjustment policies for employees who stand to lose one day's worth of pay once his proposed three-day weekend scheme is implemented when schools take a break in summer next year.

Gordon said he would work for the inclusion for such policies in the implementing guidelines of the three-day weekend scheme so that the program would not prejudice the livelihood of contractual employees and other workers, who are paid daily wages.

"It's supposed to be a win-win situation," Gordon said. "Nobody's supposed to lose their just wages. It's only that the employees have more time in their hands to spend with their respective families."

Gordon had been criticized for proposing the three-day weekend, which labor organizations say would mean less pay for wage earners.

"I propose that a different payment scheme be devised for casuals who would be affected by the three-day weekend," he said.

Gordon proposed the program to give Filipino families more time to go to the country's tourist destinations during the weekend to help boost domestic tourism.

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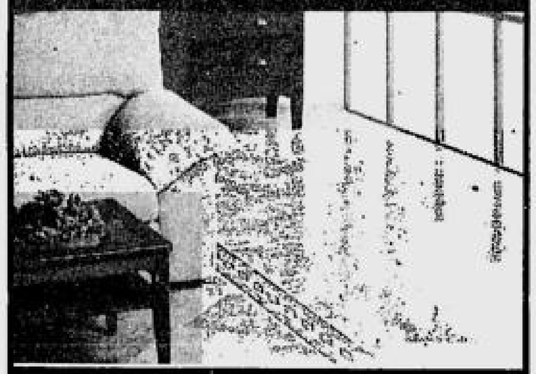

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File 'bugging' raps vs Ping now, Ombudsman urged

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday urged the Ombudsman to speed up the filing of wiretapping charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and 10 former subordinates in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

"The Ombudsman should get the ball rolling and avoid any delays in the case," the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said in a statement.

The Office of the Ombudsman on Wednesday said it had found probable cause to warrant a formal investigation into charges that Lacson and his men had bugged the telephone conversations of personalities involved in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

Pamalakaya also urged the Ombudsman not to exclude Estrada and members of his "midnight cabinet" from the bugging charges against Lacson and his subordinates.

Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said the Ombudsman should not give Lacson and the others "the opportunity to escape with this crime."

"We should not allow these people to score a major upset and leave us chasing after them," he said.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had ordered a formal investigation into the complaint filed by the Philippine National Police against Lacson and the PAOCTF agents after the discovery of bugging equipment allegedly used against foes of Estrada.

"The Ombudsman should speed up the investigation and file the appropriate criminal charges at the soonest possible time," Corpuz said.

The PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group accused Lacson and his former subordinates with violating the 1965 Anti-Wiretapping Law, malversation of funds, violation of the Anti-Corrupt Practices Act and perjury before the Ombudsman last week.

"For three decades, Lacson lived like an untouchable police general. Today the tables are turned," Corpuz said.

"The government can file criminal raps against Lacson and his cohorts in less than a week. Malacañang should stop the guessing game on when the case would be filed. It is time to give Lacson a lesson he will not forget," he said.

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Cop tells of raid; Kim Wong says it's 'pure fiction'

By Jerome Aning
and Christine O. Avendaño

CONTROVERSIAL restaurateur Kim Wong was nowhere near the Narcissus KTV, which he has denied owning, when an inspection by Manila city officials in 1997 turned up a kilo of shabu in the place.

Wong's lawyer, former solicitor general Frank Chavez, said testimony to the contrary at a Senate hearing Wednesday "though interesting was pure fiction."

Witness Senior Insp. Florentino Bagallon, then chief of the Manila city hall anti-crime and inspection team, testified that a surprise inspection in November 1997 of the Top Ten Seafood Restaurant and the Narcissus KTV above it on Mabini Street had yielded the shabu and uncovered an alleged prostitution operation employing undocumented Chinese women.

The Senate hearing was called to probe alleged money laundering and other criminal activities by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former national police chief and reported Wong friend.

In a press statement, Chavez said it was doubtful the inspection by Bagallon and his team took place, citing inconsistencies in the police official's testimony before the Senate.

Wong, Bagallon had said, appeared on the scene during the raid and tried to reach someone named "Ping" over a cellphone. Lacson's nickname is "Ping."

Bagallon said Wong later succeeded in reaching then city police director Senior Supt. Avelino Razon, who allegedly told him (Bagallon) to stop the raid.

Razon has denied Bagallon's allegation.

Chavez said he and Wong made their own inquiries and learned that in 1997, the Top Ten Seafood Restaurant did not exist. In its location was a restaurant called Richback, he said.

Chavez also said Wong could not have been trying to call Lacson because the two had not yet met in 1997. "They met in 1999," he said.

Bagallon, now with the Department of Interior and Local Government, was one of three witnesses presented against Lacson at the Senate inquiry the other day.

He told reporters yesterday that had he been given more time to testify he would have revealed what he had learned about Wong's activities.

He said that after letting Wong off the hook, the latter told him to visit his bar. Whether this was the Narcissus Bagallon did not make clear.

He said he visited Wong's bar on three occasions from late 1997 to early 1998 to "observe" what was going on there.

Bagallon said he found guest relations officers, mostly women from China and Taiwan, employed at the bar.

He said the Chinese interpreter at the bar, whom he identified only as Judith, told him the women were supplied by a Chinese businessman who was a regular at the club.

Bagallon said the women told him their working papers were being processed but they were able to enter the country with Special Investor Resident Visas, which are issued only to foreign investors wishing to reside in the country.

Bagallon said he would have followed up on the status of the women and the operation of the club but then mayor Alfredo Lim, his boss, had stepped down to run in the 1998 presidential election.

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Comelec needs calculator, says commissioner

EVEN before the Commission on Elections considers embarking on an ambitious modernization program and buying counting machines, it should consider getting a calculator to come up with correct figures in its tallies and statistics.

Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco noted that the Comelec has five different figures for the number of registered voters nationwide. These are 37,142,294 in the Comelec's final Senate tally; 36,611,362 in the Election and Barangay Affairs Division; 36,605,346 in the Records and Statistics Division; and 36,595,872 in the Education and Information Department.

The fifth figure, 36,491,794, was released by the office of chair Alfredo Benipayo after his senior staff corrected the figure stated in the Senate tally following Tancangco's revelations that the figures were padded by more than 500,000.

But even after the corrections were supposedly made, Tancangco said the number of registered voters as corrected by the senior staff of chair Alfredo Benipayo were mixed up and contained excess figures.

Tancangco pointed that Benipayo's staff erroneously placed the number of voters in Zamboanga City at 384,396 voters when this was supposed to be the figures in Cebu City. Benipayo's staff stated 266,104 voters in Cebu City which should have been the figure for Zamboanga City.

Benipayo's senior staff released the "corrected" breakdown of registered voters per region to explain the discrepancy of more than 500,000 between the number of registered voters as stated in the final Senate tally and the figures of the EBAD.

Asked if the senior staff needed to be trained in addition and computations, Tancangco said: "All they need is a good calculator."

"If this is the kind of quality of verification and encoding we have in the Comelec, then all the more we should ask that the National Board of Canvassers verify the Senate tally against the statement of votes (SOVs) in the provincial and city level," Tancangco said.

FVR lecture Sept. 13

THE RAMOS Peace and Development Foundation will hold the third lecture under its FVR-RPDEV Lecture Series program on Sept. 13, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

Former President Fidel Ramos will speak on "Meeting the Challenges of Development and Poverty Alleviation." Invited as panelists are noted personalities from the Asian Development Bank, local and foreign business sectors, government, academe, media and NGOs.

The lecture series is a continuing program of the RPDEV to provide a forum to address current issues and concerns affecting the country.

RPDEV is a non-profit foundation organized by Ramos in 1999 with four major program areas: democratic governance, sustainable development, socio-economic diplomacy and peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

PLUNDER CASE

Erap trial starts Oct. 1

By Donna S. Cueto

STARTING Oct. 1, the Sandiganbayan will conduct the plunder trial of former President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy, three times a week.

At the end of the pre-trial hearing, the antigraft court's Third Division ruled that the hearings would be conducted starting next month every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, despite strong objections from Estrada's lawyers who wanted the trial to start in November.

The trial in the plunder case was set even earlier than the perjury case which was handled by the First Division chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena. The perjury trial was set on Oct. 29, 30 and 31.

Associate Justice Teresita Leonarda de Castro remained firm on the decision to conduct the trials starting Oct. 1, even as defense lawyer Cleofe Verzola questioned the court's ruling.

"Why the hurry?" she asked as she pointed out that there were still three things to be resolved by the court.

These matters are the planned moves to include Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson and former presidential friend Jaime Dichaves in the plunder case; the subpoena on the bank documents concerning the alleged accounts of Dichaves, Lucio Co, Manny Pangilinan and other friends of Estrada; and the constitutionality of the plunder law which is being questioned before the Supreme Court.

Fair chance

Verzola claimed that the defense is given 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration on any ruling of the court.

"We are just asking that we be given a fair chance," she said.

But Ombudsman Aniano Desierto stood up to question the objection of Verzola, and her allegedly obvious attempt to delay the plunder case.

"You are saying that the question is, 'Why the hurry?' But the question really is, 'Why the delay?" Desierto asked.

"The law is clear," he said, citing the rule that within 30 days from the pre-trial order, the trial proper should already start.

He also pointed out that the Sandiganbayan could not anchor its setting of the pre-trial on the Supreme Court's pace in resolving the constitutionality of the plunder law.

"The court cannot demand that the Supreme Court resolve the case in two or three months time," he said.

Based on speculation

Associate Justice De Castro stressed that the court would conduct the trial as directed on Oct. 1, unless there is a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court has not issued any TRO. Why should we stop ourselves from hearing the case?" she pointed out.

She said Verzola's arguments in objecting to the Oct. 1 start of the trial, were just based on speculation.

The defense has yet to file their motion to implead Singson in the plunder case. The prosecution, too, is yet to file the separate charge of plunder against Dichaves.

De Castro pointed out that there was still no adverse ruling for the defense to file a motion for reconsideration.

"At this point, I think it is wrong for us to speculate," the justice said as she set the start of trial on Oct. 1.

She said the defense could still file any pleading in court, or file a motion for reconsideration within the period set by law.

"That is your right," she said.

The court said that the hearings would be conducted every other day, starting Monday, Oct. 1, for the next three months—October, November and December.

No daily hearings

The prosecution initially wanted daily trial hearings, or at least hearings four times a week for the months of October, November and December ,this year, and January next year.

The court ruled on the trial dates after both the prosecution and the defense finally agreed on a joint stipulation of facts in the plunder case.

Among the witnesses the prosecution intends to present are Governor Singson, bankers Clarissa Ocampo, Manuel Curato, Annie Ngo, Shakira Yu; former police chief Roberto Lastimoso; former Social Security System chief Carlos Arellano; and Singson's employees, Emma Lim and Carmencita Itchon.

"The prosecution reserves the right to present other witnesses and to submit and mark additional documentary evidence in the course of the trial," the prosecution said.

Vets mark Korean war memorial day

THE PHILIPPINES will commemorate its 2nd Korean War Veterans of the Philippines Memorial Day today with a simple gathering to be attended by some 100 veterans.

Because of the difficult times, the commemoration rites will coincide with the 28th annual convention of the 'PEFTOK Veterans Association Inc. (PVAI) at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo.

Only a small number of veterans from each of the five-battalion combat teams (BCTs) that comprised PEFTOK (the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea) will attend both events.

PVAI President Brig. Gen. Bienvenido Castro (Ret.) said combining both would allow PEFTOK veterans to observe Memorial Day and attend the convention at minimal cost. The first celebration of Memorial Day in 2000 was more generous compared to the one planned for this year.

"It is only proper that we commemorate, however simply, the Philippines' 2nd Korean War Memorial Day to honor our more than 100 comrades who gave their lives to defend South Korea," said Castro.

The Korean War began with North Korea's unprovoked invasion of South Korea on June 25, 1950. It was only last year, however, that the Philippines declared Sept. 7 "Korean War Veterans Memorial Day" through Presidential Proclamation 535 signed Aug. 4, 2000.

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OPINION

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

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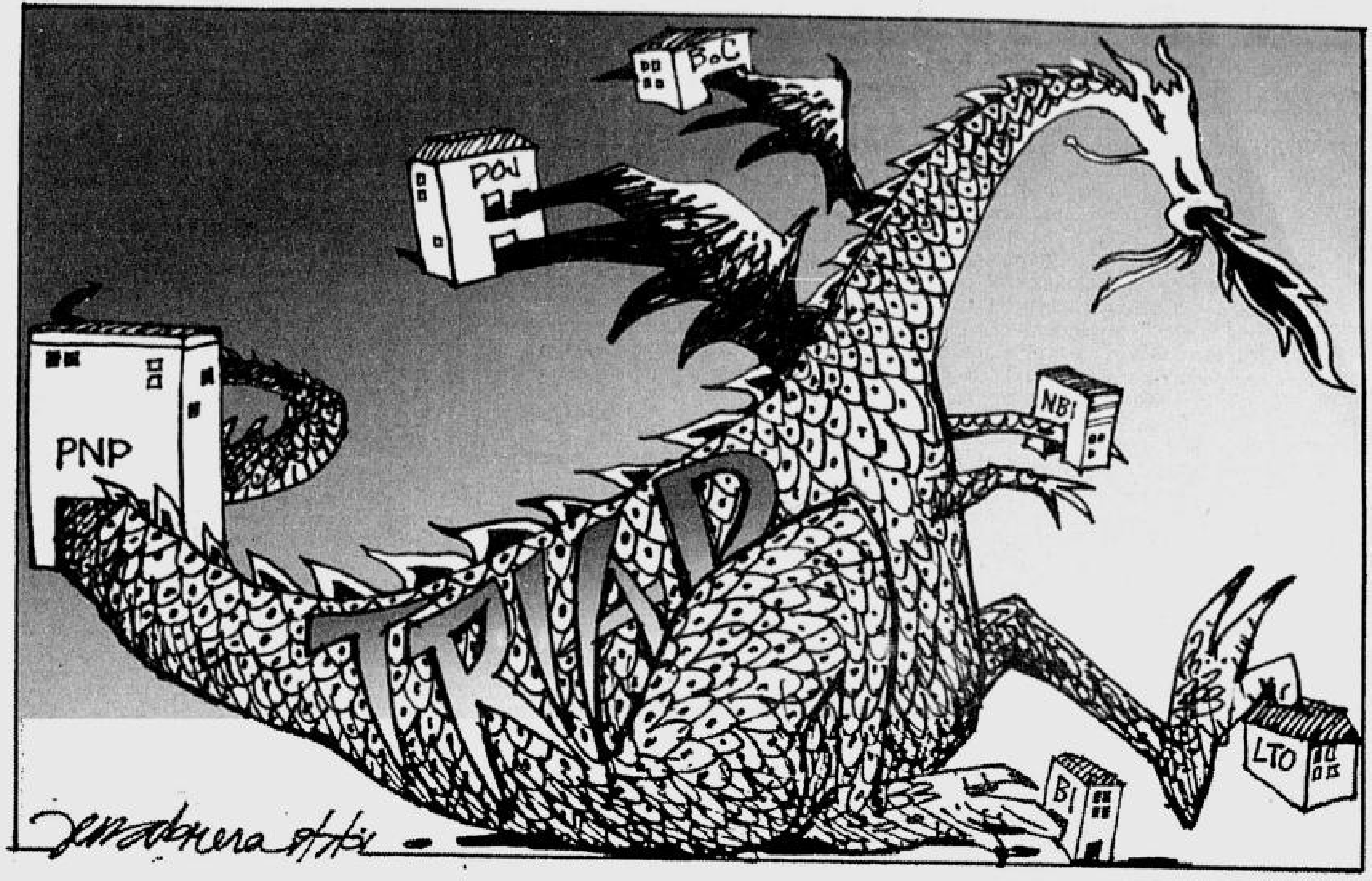

Rosebud and thorn

EDITORIAL

SHE'S good, she's foxy, she's wily, (and) she's beautiful...(but) Mary Ong is a pathological liar, and she is involved in various illegal activities." This was how Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop described the star witness in the ongoing Senate investigation of the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson and some top police officials in drug trafficking, murder, torture and money laundering. Lacson, for his part, claimed that Ong was declared to be "a witness without credibility" by American officials who had debriefed her earlier this year in San Francisco.

Ong, of course, is the key witness presented by the chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Col. Victor Corpus, to support his charges that Lacson engaged in various illegal activities when he was still with the Philippine National Police. In three days of testimony, Ong, who was given the code name "Rosebud," described how several operations launched by the PNP Narcotics Group to entrap drug lords and leaders of the Hong Kong Triad were turned into drug smuggling and kidnapping operations by the police officers themselves. In one such operation, she said, the police officers reported that they had recovered only 11 kilos of shabu, and sold about 24 kilos in the market with the help of drug dealers detained at Camp Crame, the national headquarters of the Philippine National Police. Acop, who was then chief of the Narcotics Group, got the lion's share, she said.

In another operation, a suspected drug lord from Hong Kong was abducted by Acop's men and killed after his family had paid P20 million in ransom, according to Ong. Four other suspected Chinese drug lords were abducted and killed by several police officers, and their bodies were chopped to pieces before they were burned and the bones pulverized.

And where did Lacson come in? Ong said Lacson, who was then the chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, wanted to "control and monopolize" the illegal drug trade in the Philippines. She admitted that she talked to Lacson only once—a claim Lacson has denied—but said she had overheard Acop and Supt. John Campos, the former boyfriend, talking to him about these illegal operations.

Lacson has dismissed Ong's attempt to link him to drug trafficking as hearsay. "There is no evidence linking me," he said on Monday. And at the hearing last Wednesday, Lacson disclosed that Ong had failed the credibility test as far US customs officials were concerned. These American officials have been tasked with coordinating with the Philippine investigating team looking into Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking and money laundering.

Corpus, however, has said the report that Lacson cited was not the official report submitted by the team leader, Col. Mario Chan. Chan himself said he only submitted one report and it makes no reference to any negative assessment by US officials of Ong's credibility.

There is one question that nags: Why would US officials touch the case, knowing Lacson's position and its political implications, unless there is some evidence they can start on? Why would they bother to work with the Chan team if the testimony of its key witness is full of holes?

Acop, on the other hand, has accused Ong of fraud, laundering drug money and dealing with the Chinese triads. But these allegations only raise another question: Why did they not put her behind bars and throw away the key?

Lacson and Acop tried really hard to nail her down, but Ong appears to have survived the assault. For all the many names she has been called by those she has implicated in high crimes, "Rosebud" still smells as sweet to the greater majority who have followed her terrifying revelations during the Senate hearings. A poll conducted by INQ7.net, the website of the INQUIRER and GMA Network, showed that almost 9 of every 10 respondents (88 percent) want Lacson to resign from the Senate. Earlier, some of Lacson's colleagues in the Senate described her revelations either as "credible" or "damaging" to Lacson. And now some of the civic, religious and political organizations that spearheaded the campaign to oust Joseph Estrada from the presidency have regrouped and are calling either for Lacson's resignation or expulsion from the Senate.

Lacson has said he would never leave his office since it was the people who put him in the position. That was what Estrada used to say, and look where he is now. Right now, Lacson seems to be hanging by a thin rope. One solid piece of evidence or one more important witness may be enough to bring him down. He should pray that after they finish digging, Corpus' men and the US officials helping them will come up empty.

Is the shadow that of Ping—or Marcos?

COMMENTARY

Juan L. Mercado

IS it Sen. Panfilo Lacson who casts that dark shadow lengthening on the political landscape? Or is it really that of the unmourned dictator Ferdinand Marcos?

"Marcos' impact on the PMA classes of the 1970s, and Ramos on those of the 1990s, will continue to influence the character of the Philippine military and their nation well into the 21st century," concludes the Yale University study: "Closer than brothers at the Philippine Military Academy."

Likewise, "Quezon's influence on cadets at PMA and University of the Philippines during the 1930s, had a strong and surprisingly direct role in shaping the Armed Forces of the 1960 asserts Alfred McCoy, Southeast Asian history professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

(In January 1985, McCoy stumbled across US National Archives records that revealed Marcos World War II medals as fake. He funneled these, six months later, to the New York Times. The documents triggered the Seymour Hersh series that exploded on the faltering Marcos 1986 snap election campaign.)

This is a fascinating—and troubling—book. It employs an innovative research tool: a comparative analysis of two generations of PMA graduates.

One is the Class of 1940, swept almost immediately into World War II battles. The other is the Class of 1971, co-opted by martial law eerily almost within the same period after commission.

In addition, this "comparative lens" also gives insights into the soldiers who today clash on the national scene: Col. Victor Corpus (PMA '67) and General Lacson (PMA '71).

The book sketches, for example, PMA instructor Victor Corpus, appalled by a Filipino elite of 169 families monopolizing power, teaching in the 1970s cadets on radical reforms.

"In the Philippines, institutions often scorn the sum of personal ties," McCoy points out. And men like Corpus "translated broad ideological currents into institutional change."

(He) had a quiet charisma that marked for future command...Class '71 took Government 411 with Corpus and found him a committed and influential teacher.

Among those listening to Corpus; cadets Gregorio Honasan, now senator, Gen. Panfilo Lacson, Colonels Vic Batac, Red Kapunan--key figures in the abortive "God Save the Queen" coups of the late 1980s.

Then, there is Class '71s darling Lacson. A year and a half after graduation, Class '71 "became defenders of the dictatorship." By 1981, Amnesty International reported a "Philippine gulag of safe houses where members of the Armed Forces had been responsible for acts of unusual brutality."

Right after his graduation, Lacson joined the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group—Marcos' favored instrument for torture and produced some of the most fearsome and brutal cops in memory," the book notes.

Lacson rose through MISG's ranks for the next 15 years on a fast track to national police power. "Rolando Abadilla (PMA '65) and two close comrades, Roberto Ortega and Panfilo Lacson tortured together for over a decade," McCoy writes.

The Yale analysis "uncovers fundamental differences" in Class '40 and '71—from their academic bonding and climb to power.

This 79 graduates of Class '40 "bonded to one another in training modeled after West Point, rather than St. Cyr or Sandhurst. The list includes heroes of Bataan, Jose Mendoza, 17 pilots including Ramon Farolan and Bartolome Cabangbang, who tangled with Japanese Zeroes to Ramon Alcaraz, who fought from puny Q-boats.

"Combat and captivity saw Class '40 emerge with their belief in civil supremacy over the military affirmed. They formed values that would later withstand the pressures of higher command...In the postwar decades, they actively blocked coup attempts."

That record sharply contrasted with that etched by the Class of '71. They became the fist of the Marcos dictatorship...Their involvement in torture ruptured the academy socialization. (It) lead them launched six coup attempts.

In the 1930s, the University of the Philippines Corps of Cadets trained men who would, 30 years later, seek to politicize the Armed Forces "with activist nationalist values," McCoy notes.

Among the 45 who finished UP's advanced military courses in 1937, eight became central figures in the martial law regime of the 1970s. Marcos chief of staff Romeo Espino; Supreme Court chief justice Fred Ruiz Castro and sugar czar Roberto Benedicto.

"Only 18 months after graduation, Class '71 became the defenders of the dictatorship," the Yale study asserts. "Mindanao bonded and brutalized these young officers of Class '71."

Among the 85 graduates of Class '71, at least five practiced torture, six were murdered. Most had combat experience in counter-insurgency. "They were the ultimate creatures of martial law."

"They also provided 15 of the 77 officers involved in two or more coups—by far the highest for any single class. Not only did these coups define them," McCoy writes. "But the class itself defined the role of the coup d' êtat in Philippine politics."

Other PMA graduates were tainted by brutality or coup participation. But only Class '71 exhibits this "intriguing coincidence of torture experience and coup leadership. Why?

Breaking the socially prominent in torture may have somehow led these young officers to believe that they could, through violence, impose their will on society," McCoy writes.

Some Latin American theologians were to call this "violence blanca" (white violence). Force smashes injustice built into social systems.

"Each regime leaves an invisible legacy in the values of the junior officers it has trained and commissioned," the Yale study adds. "Presidents come and go, often after a decade...

"But in the final phase of their 30-year careers, each class carries the lessons of early formative experience, as it rises to the command of the armed forces," McCoy sums up. The book is a good read.

Priorities

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IS the Senate hearing on Panfilo Lacson wasting precious Senate time that could be devoted to more important things?

That is what the business community is saying. Businessmen are worried that the hearing is sending the wrong signal to investors. It is painting a picture of the country as one rocked by instability, helped in no small way by coup rumors that have dogged a parallel hearing in the House of Representatives about collusion between AFP officials and the Abu Sayyaf. Additionally, it is taking the legislators' attention away from pressing bills that would allow the economy to get over the hump.

Well, the investors can go hang. The citizens of this country will be living in it long after they leave it. The Senate does not exist to serve the investors first, it exists to serve the citizens first. You can't have a more important issue, one that touches the lives of the people at their very core, than the current hearing on police and military wrongdoing in the Senate and House. Those hearings are well past due. They should have been done long ago, during Cory Aquino's time or immediately after the first Edsa, and resolute action taken in their wake. Had they happened then, we would have been spared the legacy of two institutions dedicated to malfeasance and the screwing of human rights.

Nothing can be more important than restoring the moral moorings of this country, the one thing that has been cut off from us far more neatly than the so-called "economic fundamentals." Nothing can be more important than restoring public confidence in law enforcement and national security, the two things the public has most learned to dread rather than trust. At the very least, nothing can be more important than liberating the citizens from the oppression the very institutions sworn to protect them unleash.

Economic progress means nothing unless the people can feel secure in their own country. The first in any case will always prove elusive without the second. Unless we want to go back to martial law, where foreign investors are guarded with bayonets while the rest of the populace quake in fear in their homes, we should applaud the Senate and House for having the right priorities.

As I said in a previous column, I am thankful to Victor Corpus for drawing national attention to this issue, for compelling the most errant institutions of this society to give an accounting of themselves before the bar of public opinion. It is a courageous and heroic effort, and its effects will be far-reaching. I for one have no wish to see it go to waste by being cut short in the name of a spurious higher good that the Senate should be pursuing. This issue is as good as it gets.

But there is a sense in which the Senate has been wasting its time and may not be allowed to do so further, and here I go back to a point I have been making the past few weeks. It is not that the Senate has been tackling the wrong issue, it is that it has been listening to the wrong testimony. One month after Corpus brought out his charges against him, first money laundering, and thence drug-pushing, kidnapping and murder, he is nowhere near to making those charges stick. Not in the Senate, and certainly not in a court of law.

Corpus' witnesses have so far made a workable case against some of Lacson's men. But not against him. I listened attentively to the testimony given by the other witnesses last Wednesday afternoon, and all they have by way of implicating Lacson is that his name was mentioned by some of the drug lords they raided. Which was enough for the raiding parties to back off. At the very least, how many politicians have **not** used the name of a presumed protector in the PNP or AFP when caught with a traffic violation? At the very most, it indicts the leaders of the raiding parties for gullibility or negligence.

I do not like Lacson, as I said before, and he has every reason to complain that I have not written anything good about him. But whether I like him or not is neither here nor there. This is not a hearing to determine whether he is likeable or not, whether he is popular or not, whether he is decent or not. This is a hearing to determine whether he is guilty or not. Whether there is reason to file a case against him in court or not. In this matter at least, I will continue to defend Lacson's right to a fair hearing, and trial. Which he has not had so far. And which is being denied him further by a campaign to make him resign, which shifts the burden of proof from accuser to accused. There is a difference between people power and mob rule. The first takes off from a stout exercise of due process, the second from the lack of it.

Rebuilding the moral foundations of this country is the most pressing business we have. Bringing back public confidence in law enforcement is the most urgent goal we have. Liberating the citizenry from the oppression of the people who have sworn to protect them is the highest good we have. But none of this can happen if we start thinking that the people we presume to have been unfair to the country do not deserve fairness, that the people we presume to have screwed civil rights may be presumed guilty until proven innocent, that the people we presume to have curtailed due process deserve to be lynched, metaphorically or physically. That is dangerous thinking, and bodes ill for this country's freedoms. Certainly, it dooms the entire project of restoring morality and justice and decency. We might as well forget those words if the only way we can rid this world of its dregs is by becoming so.

The burden does not lie with Lacson. It lies with Corpus, it lies with civil society, it lies with us. And until we can find—and soon—something less tenuous to tag Lacson to the crimes we have accused him of, we truly will be wasting the Senate's time, and our own, to pursue this hearing.

Time is ticking. It is far too precious to waste.

Chief Taliban mullah has final judgment

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stephen Coates

ISLAMABAD—Eight foreigners on trial for allegedly preaching Christianity in Afghanistan are at the mercy of Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar, regardless of the verdict handed down in the Supreme Court.

The Taliban's chief justice, Mawlawi Noor Mohammad Saqib, on Wednesday began the second day of the trial, which is taking the form of closed-door discussions between judges and Islamic scholars.

He told reporters that the legal process would be fair, but so far the accused—two Americans, two Australians and four Germans—have not even appeared in court to hear the charges or been allowed to engage legal representation.

Saqib, trained in Islamic law at a seminary in neighboring Pakistan, refused to rule out the death penalty.

"We will give them punishment according to Islamic law, whether imprisonment or hanging...If they have broken the law and should be hanged then we will punish them like that," he said.

Diplomats representing the foreigners demanded a meeting with the chief justice but were turned away.

"We want to know what's going on," Australian consul Alastar Adans told AFP outside the court.

No one expected the fundamentalist Islamic militia's trial to follow international norms, but Taliban ministers earlier promised to allow the diplomats to monitor the proceedings.

The Taliban aspire to create a pure Mohammadan state run according to their own strict interpretation of Islamic law. Western legal influences, as in most other areas of society, are openly shunned.

Most legal disputes in Afghanistan are settled out of court, sometimes following consultations with religious leaders or community elders responsible for enforcing rigid codes of behavior followed by the Pashtun ethnic majority.

The Taliban aspire to create a pure Mohammadan state run according to their own strict interpretation of Islamic law.

But whatever happens in the Supreme Court, the final decision will be made by Omar after consultation with his inner circle of Kandahar-based hard-liners.

The reclusive war veteran, who rarely leaves his hometown in Kandahar, is the highest legal authority under the Taliban system. He makes laws by decree and personally approves the execution of criminals.

His decision whether to uphold any punishment ordered by the court, or to show mercy, will be closely watched as a clue to the current balance of power between rival factions within the secretive militia.

Analysts believe a debate is raging at the highest levels of the Taliban leadership over how to deal with the Christian aid workers.

Their fate poses a potentially divisive dilemma for the Taliban—whether the militia's original religious mission to create a pure Islamic state should be tempered for the sake of international recognition and aid.

At one side are the so-called hard-liners believed responsible for the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan earlier this year. They will be demanding the harshest possible punishment under Islamic law.

On the other are the Taliban leaders who, while staunch in their religious beliefs, want the movement to be recognized by the international community as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

Omar's secretive clique is believed to include Justice Minister Mullah Nuruddin Turabi, army chief Mullah Mohammad Hassan and other military advisors including Pakistanis, elder Kandahari religious scholars and Arabs linked to Saudi millionaire and indicted terrorist Osama bin Laden.

The militia regime is recognized only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and is subject to United Nations sanctions for its alleged support for terrorism.

Afghanistan's UN seat is held by the ousted government of president Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose former defense minister, Ahmad Shah Masood, clings to pockets of territory mostly in the rugged northeast of the country. *AFP*

Costs of kidnappings

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHILE the country's attention is riveted on "narco-politics," we mustn't forget that we are also in the midst of a resurgence of crime, the most newsworthy of which is kidnap-for-ransom.

Teresita Ang See, best known these days as a spokesperson for the Chinese-Filipino community and an anti-crime crusader ("she's our Chinoy Joan of Arc," a reader writes), showed me an article of hers that sought to explain the resurgence of kidnapping and its impact on the victims, their families and the community.

The article was published in the Aug. 7 issue of Tulay, a fortnightly Chinese-Filipino digest, and is an expanded version of an article published in the July 11 issue of Newsbreak magazine.

"At the peak of kidnappings, the average number of kidnap victims was one every other day," Ang See writes. Under the watch of PNP Chief (and now Sen.) Panfilo Lacson, kidnapping incidents "went down to one a month," and in time, "no kidnappings were reported on some months." With a new leadership at the helm of the PNP, kidnapping is once more resurgent, so that, says Ang See "members of the Chinoy community are again living insane, abnormal and paranoid lives."

It doesn't take too many kidnappings to set off a "spree." As Ang See writes:

"Kidnappings, as we have sadly learned, grow exponentially. Once the kidnappers are successful with one attempt, they gain the logistics to launch another two. If they succeed again, two becomes four, four becomes eight, eight becomes 16...The small cottage industry mushrooms into a full-blown highly lucrative industry."

* * *

STUNG by criticisms, the police establishment has dismissed the complaints and charges of groups like Ang See's Citizens' Action against Crime and the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order as "pro-Lacson," if not "pro-Erap" propaganda. ("We Chinoys were among the first to march to the Shrine for Edsa II!" Ang See laughingly protests.) And yet there's a need to look beyond the politics because kidnappings set off ripples of effect far beyond just the victim and his/her family, or even just Binondo or Greenhills.

"For every kidnapping that happens, the business climate worsens and triggers a chain reaction," says Ang See. "As more domestic investors become demoralized and shut down their businesses, more workers find themselves out of work. These workers suffer the abuses, humiliation and degradation of working abroad. Here at home, their families pay a high social cost for broken homes."

Kidnappings, notes Ang See, "drain the economy. Precious capital that could have been used for productive work goes to ransom payments. Precious foreign exchange is pulled out by frightened families that uproot themselves."

* * *

TO illustrate her point, Ang See quotes "John," whose three children were kidnapped in one fell swoop, paid a hefty amount for their release, then sent his entire family abroad on the same day he got back his children.

"We have invested in this factory for three generations," says John. "Not even the ravages of the Japanese war were able to put us down. From the ruins of war, we recovered and continued our business. Somehow, we were confident that at the end of the darkest hour, there is hope for the future.

"But now, we are not so sure. Everything is gone—our energy, our hope, our belief that it is worth it to continue. Business is bad enough, but our hard-earned savings went down the drain in just one ransom payment. The trauma the family suffered may never be obliterated. What is the use of profits if they can be senselessly lost like this and with it, our own lives may be lost too?"

How many "Johns," regardless of ethnicity, have abandoned this land because of fear for their and their families' safety outweighed whatever bonds of loyalty and fondness they had for the Philippines and its people? Time recently profiled an emerging Columbian community in Florida, led by a class of well-educated, cultured and urbane Columbians who had fled their country either because they had been kidnapped or felt under threat. How big, I wonder, is the Filipino expat community driven out by kidnappers for fear of them?

* * *

MARYKNOLL/Miriam College alumni are urged to take part in the Grand Alumni Homecoming tomorrow, Sept. 8 with the theme "Maryknoll/Miriam College: 75 Years of Inspiration."

The homecoming takes place the whole day starting at 9 a.m. with exhibits, activities and the traditional Alumni Mass, Lunch and Program in celebration of the institution's Diamond Jubilee as well as 75 years of the Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines.

Among the attractions worth visiting are: the "Amazing Alumni Achievers" exhibit which celebrates the excellence of Maryknoll/Miriam alumni to inspire future graduates; the "Maryknoll/Miriam Story" which tells the complete history of the college from its founding in 1926; and an exhibit on the evolution of the school uniforms and of the Maryknoll sisters' habits.

The Miriam College Gallery of Women's Art will also be opened tomorrow. The Gallery will house the artworks of renowned Filipino women artists, while paintings by alumni will also be on display. Fashion collections by alumni fashion designers will also be exhibited while at the same time, a bazaar will showcase goods which were designed, created and produced by alumni. Alumni restaurateurs will also be conducting cooking and baking demos. Alumni physicians will be holding free consultations and diagnostic examinations while exhibits and video presentations on edible grains, waste management and health issues will be held throughout the day.

Also to be launched tomorrow is the book "Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines" by Sr. Virginia Fabella, M.M. and Sr. Dorothy Mulligan, M.M., alongside an exhibit on alumni authors and their works.

So even if you don't belong to any of the host batches, it'll be a great day to celebrate your links to the Maryknoll/Miriam family!

Food and the memories they conjure

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THE SUCCESSFUL International Conference on Kapampangan Studies closed yesterday with participants doing a tour of Spanish colonial churches in Pampanga and other historic sites. Although I did not attend all three days I was told that the discussions on the papers presented were lively. One hopes that further research and dissemination continues after the conference, and that similar conferences will be held in other provinces as a first step in balancing the Manila-centric history that often passes off as Philippine *national* history.

History and culture is like air. We feel it, we use it, we pollute it. It is part of everyday life yet we hardly notice it. Contrary to popular belief one does not need to be a historian or academic to appreciate ones roots. You do not need to go further than the food on your table. In an often neglected part of "Remembrance of Things Past," Marcel Proust illustrates how a small crumb of *madeleine* on the tip of the narrator's tongue triggers a flood of warm childhood memories—tastes, smells, sounds, touch, etc. When I was in Chicago last year my landlord supplied me with cans of Vienna sausages, corned beef, *pan de limon*, tocino, *queso de bola* and other goodies that I often spurned in Manila. After six months in the United States these foods reminded me of home and my childhood. These foods opened childhood memories that had long been locked away. Reflecting on the tastes of childhood made me realize that food is not just part of our bodies but also part of our memories, part of our personal histories. In a larger sense, food is history and to study it is not only to know ourselves but to understand the context in which we live—who we were, who we are and who we can be.

Despite the central position of food in our lives (some people would argue that sex is more central) food does not figure prominently in history that, more often than not, chronicles great people and great events. Food is not even part of political history even if it motivates people to act in certain ways—disagreements have sprung from food preferences, food or the lack of it inspired wars and peace treaties. Perhaps food is not in the historian's vocabulary because few historical figures were idle or moved enough to make a record of, say, morning coffee in diaries that later become the stuff professional historians call primary sources.

While I am only half-Kapampangan (my mother is a Tagalog) my tastes were formed by weekends and summers in Pampanga. From an early age I looked forward to sweets at fiestas and family gatherings: *turron de casuy, pastillas, sans rival* (which is actually French for "without rival"), *ensaimada*, San Nicolas, *tocino del cielo*, etc. that were copied by other regions the same way that almost all *buko* pies in Laguna claim to be the "original." Variations on *turron de casuy* are made in other provinces that churn out *turron de mani* and *turron de pili.* What used to be exclusive to the province has since spread to other places. In the past you had to travel to Angeles for authentic *sisig,* a recent Pampanga invention made from pork cheeks and ear cartilage. Today *sisig* can be found all over Manila in various non-Kapampangan versions. What was once exclusive and special has become ordinary because it is readily available in Manila.

What has not been copied though are Kapampangan dishes that, like *sashimi*, is an acquired taste. For example, *buro* (fermented rice) is served without the red or pink coloring favored by Tagalogs. The *buro* taste may be the same but visually the Pampanga version looks like fresh vomit. *Taba ng talangka* may be a delicious cholesterol special but again whether you get the real thing or an adulterated version it is not visually appealing. I leave that to your imagination.

Can you imagine if Pampanga restaurants served bats, python or field rats? No one has gone that far yet because some people are squeamish over deep-fried frogs' legs in Chinese restaurants. How will they cope with *betute* which is the whole bloated frog minus the head, stuffed with meat and deep fried? Some people claim *betute* is obscene and request that the poor frog's legs be tied into a more decent non-sexual posture. Then there is *kamaru* (mole cricket) that looks like deep fried cockroaches without the wings. If you are brave enough to try it you will realize that it is crunchy on the outside, creamy on the inside.

These Pampanga "specialties" merely prove that food preferences are culture-bound and that food to one is poison to another. Why is one thing edible in one culture and disgusting or taboo in another? The answer to this is an exploration into culture and history. Most significant is the fact that Pampanga-inspired Manila restaurants do not highlight the upper-class *ilustrado* or fiesta food of the province, but the standard fare of ordinary people who work the Central Luzon plains and Candaba swamps to supply us with rice, sugar and other crops. Notions of ordinary and special have changed over time revealing emerging tastes and new contexts. Food makes us what we are and to know food is to know people. Show me what you eat and I will tell you who you are.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu.edu.ph

Agony and ecstasy

COMMENTARY

Bernardo V. Lopez

EMELITO was a lawyer from Batangas in his mid-40s, too young to die. He was tall, handsome and strong. Both of his kidneys were in an advanced stage of failure, functioning at only 25 percent. On top of this, he had ulcers and high blood pressure.

There were only two solutions to Emelito's problem. He could get either a dialysis on a daily basis or a kidney transplant. Only one kidney could be transplanted. The other just had to "die." Still, Emelito could live on one borrowed kidney. Emelito could not afford either solution. Out of the question. The opinions of three of the best doctors in town were all the same. Emelito's case was "irreversible."

On Sept. 8, 2000, the birthday of Our Lady, while in extreme agony, Emelito read an article this writer wrote for the INQUIRER titled "You can see forever," and his heart jumped. The article was about Sister Raquel Reodica, RVM, a Catholic nun who had healed many terminal diseases since 1991. [The title was quoted from Sister Raquel, who said, "If your heart is kind, you will see forever."] Emelito clutched a copy of the article when he went to visit sister.

Emelito prayed aloud, "Lord, You are my only hope through the hands of Sister Raquel."

Sister Raquel replied, "Trust in the Lord, Emelito. Surrender yourself and your sickness to Jesus."

For three months, Emelito came to sister regularly. In fact, he came too often, sister was getting a bit annoyed. She no longer had time for herself with so many coming with no appointment. But Sister Raquel could not refuse the persistent Emelito.

For three long months, Emelito vanished. Suddenly, out of nowhere, he came to sister with a smile extending from ear to ear. He put up a victory sign. Both kidneys were mysteriously functioning 95 percent. His creatinin fell from 3 plus to almost 1.5. There was no need for a transplant or dialysis. His ulcer was gone, and his blood pressure was normal. All three doctors were amazed that this "irreversible" sickness was reversed. They asked where this sister stayed as they also wanted to see her. And so, Emelito took his arduous trip from agony to ecstasy. It was a roller coaster ride, a deep low to a towering high.

Chinchin was four months old when I saw her at sister's place. Her mother Ellen came all the way from San Pedro, Laguna, her fist visit. Ellen's first baby died in her womb of hypoxia because she was always upset and crying due to some emotional problem.

The trip took about three and a half hours. Chinchin, her second baby, suffered from a congenital heart disease. I could not understand but Ellen said Chinchin's heart was "inverted" and had "two holes in it," if that was possible. She suffered from attacks an average of twice a day for three to four minutes each wherein she turned blue from lack of oxygen. The veins to her lungs were abnormally small. The doctor said she needed an operation right away wherein he would put artificial veins to the lungs. It could not wait. But Ellen could not afford the operation as her husband was jobless. So she went instead to Sister Raquel after reading the same article.

Chinchin, a jolly baby inspite of her agony, would have violent hiccups for 10 minutes if she laughed. How could a bit of joy be a source of such pain? She sweated so profusely that two electric fans were not enough. Just a little cry and she would sweat profusely. Once she had an attack at midnight for 10 to 15 minutes. Her fingernails and feet were blue. This was one baby who had eye bags. She was the epitome of agony at such a young age.

Before Sister Raquel prayed over her, Chinchin stared at nothing and had a pained silent expression. After a very short pray-over, she started to laugh and look around, smiling and cooing at everyone. It was an amazing case of instant healing.

I caught everything on my video camera, before, during and after Sister Raquel prayed over her. When Sister Raquel placed her hand on Chinchin's chest, she reacted by grimacing her face. I asked contacts at ABS-CBN if they could show the very short but precious footage for the public, but they had a policy that they aired only footage from their own cameras. (GMA7, are you interested?) Perhaps it can wait if we get some funds for a mini-documentary we have been planning.

I called Ellen after a week to ask how Chinchin was doing. Ellen said Chinchin had only two attacks since she saw sister. From twice a day for about three to four minutes, her attacks became twice a week and only for 30 seconds. I would call that instant healing, ecstasy for the mother.

Sister Raquel complains that many who were healed whom she asked to come back to have their testimony documented never returned. I am not referring to Emelito or Ellen. Only one of ten lepers Jesus healed came back to see Him. It seems it is the same today, two thousand years after. People who are sick have time to be healed, but when they are healed, they become too busy to return.

The first INQUIRER article I wrote changed everything for Sister Raquel. A deluge of phone calls came, some from as far as Cebu, Davao, and even one from Taipei. Life was never the same for sister after Sept. 8, 2000, Our Lady's millennium birthday. The remote sleepy retreat house she was a superior of was transformed into a very busy and crowded place, especially on Saturdays. On some sessions, the crowds stayed up to 10 at night and even up to midnight.

Sept. 8, the birthday of Our Lady, has always been a special day for Sister Raquel. She started healing people in 1991. And on Sept. 8, 1991, she had a huge crowd of about 15,000 at the Araneta Coliseum.

Earlier, she healed a premier ballerina who broke her hip in a bad fall during a performance. Her partner failed to catch her. The half-a-dozen or so doctors she consulted (she could afford it) all said she could not dance anymore for the rest of her life. But she did for Sister Raquel on that fateful day at the Araneta Coliseum.

If you need help, call Sister Raquel at 930-3902. Ask for directions to the Mother Ignacia Retreat House, 857 Bagombong Road, Novaliches, Caloocan City. Before you come, remember, healing is between you and the Lord. Sister Raquel is simply a bridge. And healing requires your unquestioning faith.

* * *

Author's e-mail address: eastwind@edsamail.com.ph

THEY SAID

Not growth alone

"Growth alone will not dissipate the social imbalance and all the money in the world will not necessarily solve our problems."

—Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas III on RP's economic problem of high concentration of wealth on too few people

What makes a true leader

"There are many leaders, but what sets them apart is their hunger to do well."

—Systems Technology Institute Inc. president Chito Salazar

Ability to rise

"Nobody is perfect but we have to recover from our failings. We have to find a way to stand up every time."

—Avon Cosmetics Inc. general manager Ma. Lourdes Cumagun-Dy Buncio

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LETTERS

Time to rewrite Constitution

YOUR editorial (PDI, 9/4/01) suggesting the value of a constitutional convention should be taken seriously by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Our 1987 Constitution which established the multi-party system must be blamed mainly for the election of Joseph E. Estrada whose dissolute lifestyle has brought shame and scandal to the Filipino nation. Our centralized form of government is what has fomented the lawlessness and disorder in Mindanao. Our presidential system which, extraordinary, even absurd powers to the President has encouraged corruption and inefficiencies in the government services. Our electoral system has left vital areas in our country without senatorial representation and the JBC feature of our judicial branch has made a mockery of the independence of our judiciary. And it is time we seriously considered the gradual introduction of the jury system in our criminal justice set-up.

The fuse is getting short. Time is running out for our country before it blows up into total anarchy and degradation. How much longer can we bear the terrible consequences of an ill-designed Constitution?—**EXEQUIEL B. GARCIA, past president, Philconsa**

Oreta wants to end a witch hunt

THIS is in reference to your Aug. 26 editorial which criticized Senators Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Blas Ople for calling for a halt to the Senate inquiry into the charges hurled by military Intelligence Chief Col. Victor Corpus against Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Senator Oreta believes the Senate inquiry should end because it has degenerated into a political witch hunt, with witnesses coming up with blanket allegations despite the lack of solid evidence to support their charges.

She had earlier asked her fellow members conducting the inquiry to first focus on the charges hurled by Angelo "Ador" Mawanay against Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro. Mawanay's accusations against Senators Legarda and De Castro have a bearing on his credibility as Colonel Corpus' star witness against Senator Lacson. As Senator Oreta explained at that time, the Senate should first determine the veracity of Mawanay's charges against Senators Legarda and De Castro before it can even consider if he is telling the truth with regard to his allegations against Senator Lacson.

Senator Oreta suspects that there are political forces behind Corpus who, alarmingly, has admitted that he has been resorting to legal short cuts instead of submitting to constitutional processes in presenting his case against Senator Lacson.

No one can dispute that the charges against Senator Lacson are very serious. This is the reason they need to undergo the correct legal processes. This is also the reason Senator Oreta wants the charges against Senator Lacson substantiated not by mere allegations but by solid evidence that can stand up in court. She believes that unless the witnesses lined up by Corpus can substantiate their charges against Senator Lacson, then the hearings would merely be an exercise in futility.

Besides, she pointed out that the Senate has many pressing matters that beg for its attention, like the priority bills endorsed by the Macapagal administration to revive an ailing economy and address the worsening peace and order situation.—**TERESITA S. CASTILLO, chief of staff of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Senate, Rm. 516, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**

Smoking starts at 11

OUR nation should be alarmed by the findings of a pilot study conducted by the National Poison Control and Information Service of the University of the Philippines and the Philippine General Hospital among 640 third to sixth graders of two selected public school in Quezon City that the average age of first use of alcohol and cigarettes is 11. Kids should be in playgrounds, in school or spending time with their families and not experimenting with liquor or cigarettes.

Schools, parents and the community must join efforts to curb this burgeoning hazard to the health and welfare of the young in our society. It is way past time for concerted and focussed action on this social blight.—**MARY ANN D. LUNA, 5 Joy St., A-Prime Compd., Cainta, Rizal**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

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Toxic waste containment mechanism unsafe?

ROCKWELL Land Corp.'s response regarding its toxic waste in San Joaquin, Pasig City, does not address the very issues raised upon it. It only dwelled on its efforts, which by its own admission is wanting, and ergo still disregards the environmental and health implications of its toxic wastes.

The main issue is the big health hazard it deliberately posed to the low-middle class residents of San Joaquin.

Rockwell Land Corp., in all its explanations and reported attempts to contain the toxic waste, has not answered the challenges about the integrity of its containment mechanism. Similarly, it does not answer the possibility that the toxic structure it created would move or break, it being situated within the Marikina Valley floodplain which is prone to liquefaction.

What makes its response sound worse is its attempt to confuse the public on the danger that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) can bring to the people. All they had to do was to look into the data of the US-Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and most of the regulatory agencies in countries which have more experience in handling such wastes, on how PCBs are classified. PCB is one of the 147 compounds/elements classified by EPA as acutely toxic. It is also deemed by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants held in May 2001, one among the 10 deadliest invention made by man and is thus immediately targeted to be eliminated.

If Rockwell Land Corp. believes that the PCB containment mechanism it constructed is safe, then why did it not build that in the Rockwell Center itself, and save itself from the risk and cost of transporting the toxic waste?

We from the Kalikasan-People's Network for the Environment, believe and join in the call on Rockwell Land Corp. Inc. and Meralco to remove the deadly waste from the residential area of San Joaquin, Pasig City. If the Bantay-Kalikasan Foundation, also of the Lopezes, is that sincere about its environmental advocacies, then we urge it to call to task its sister company. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should similarly correct the irregularity in the premature issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificate to Rockwell Land Corp. It should hold accountable former Secretary Antonio Cerilles and EMB Director Abaya for their midnight decision and their indiscretion.—**FRANCES Q. QUIMPO, national coordinator, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, 175-B Kamias Ext., Sikatuna Vill., Quezon City**

Teacher licensure exam that stinks

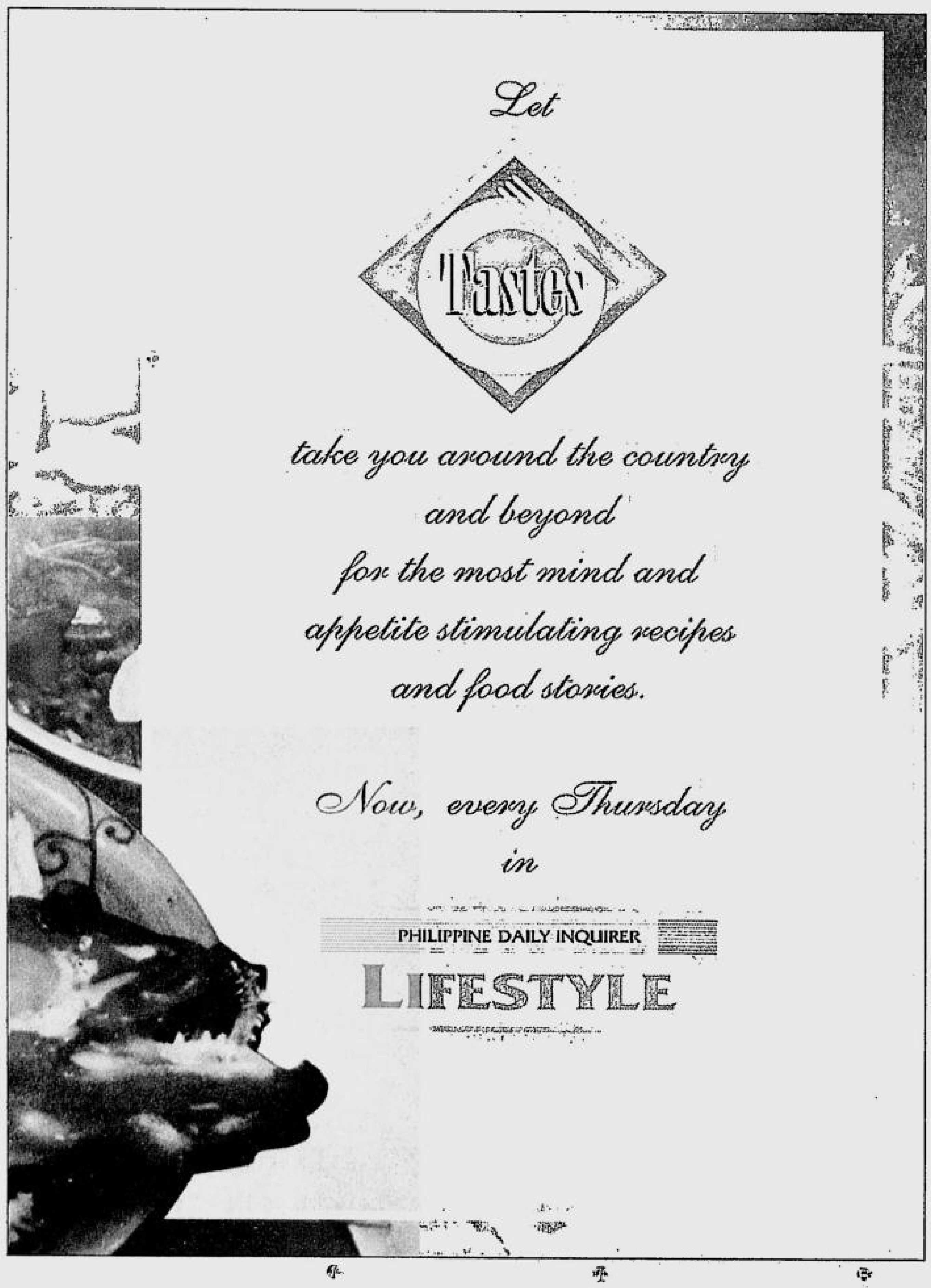
I AM a pre-school teacher in Iloilo City and English is just a second language to me, so I can surely say that I am no expert of all its rudiments and nuances. However, today I just finished taking the Licensure Examination for Teachers, Secondary Level, English and Literature and I am very distressed to report that the whole exam was laden with typographical, spelling, grammatical and syntactic errors.

On behalf of the other examinees, I feel insulted and mocked by the whole system. Here we are—struggling teachers trying to meet government requirements so we could keep our jobs—taking a national examination full of errors, and we are expected to pass under the scrutiny of a computer. The whole system is composed of man-made erroneous items in an exam supervised by a strict PRC, taken by both new and repeat teacher-examinees, checked by an electronic device. Definitely, the computer will not analyze each item because it is programmed only to look for correct answers in the form of pencil shadings.

I feel bad about the whole thing because as an examinee, my competencies are supposed to be measured against the ideal, the correct, the near-perfect because, after all, this is NATIONAL and PROFESSIONAL in scope and magnitude. I am very disappointed because my quest for the betterment of my craft is wrongly measured. Whether I pass this English test or not is immaterial now. What concerns me is the plight of the other teacher-examinees who will fail that test (and other future LETs) because in the first place, the test itself is a failure. The very least that the test makers could have done was to proofread the entire examination. (Any English teacher, journalist or college graduate will immediately spot the errors, I assure you.) If proofreading was, is and will not be a part of the preparation stage, I humbly suggest that future exams be done in Filipino or whatever dialect the examinees are most comfortable with. It hurts to read the English language "maimed" by Filipinos. It also embarrasses me that the Department of Education, Culture and Sports is part of this atrocity. To use a local expression, *kahuluya gid ya.*

I am willing to furnish a few of the erroneous items still fresh in my mind, but I still have to find out if this act will invalidate my exam because I signed an oath to the effect that I will not "take out" any item from the testing room. I strongly encourage the education secretary to examine the test questions himself, specifically, Set A. Better yet, please answer the test, even just for levity's sake.

Please take the time to look into this serious matter for the benefit of our school youth. We need to "professionalize" this whole matter from the topmost levels.—**NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST**



Another view of the 'All right' issue

THE "ALL RIGHT" issue may be trivial to a lot of citizens, including a distinguished alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy who said that it is only confined within the cadet corps in Baguio. However, it somehow bothers me as an alumnus of the PMA, Class of 1955, that there are some misconceptions as to the applicability of the Honor Code. There are two of them that I would like to take up.

A news item mentioned that some alumni insisted that an "all right" can only be asked by an upperclassman of an underclassman. This is a wrong notion since in the academy, even a plebe or freshman on guard duty, can challenge any upperclassman with an "all right." In fact, an "all right" challenge is only given during official inspections or investigations. It is not trivialized by using it for informal purposes or to satisfy a personal curiosity. Or in "fishing expeditions" to uncover misdemeanors. As explained quite lengthily by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes during the Question Hour of Sept. 3, the "all right" is used to check on the behavior of cadets usually during call to quarters when they are supposed to be in their rooms and studying.

However, during critical situations, particularly when an incident of hazing is discovered, the tactical officers do not hesitate to challenge the suspects with an "all right." The usual question is "did you touch the plebe?" The response to the "all right" must be an unequivocal "yes" or "no" and no quibbling is allowed in the process. I recall Mr. Romeo Solis, who became a top official of the budget commission who was dismissed because he responded truthfully, although his only action was tapping the hazed plebe (later on Gen. Thomas Manlongat) on the stomach with a pair of empty cotton hop gloves.

The other misconception is the one declared by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon when he said that the "all right" is confined only to cadets. I find this declaration as somewhat strange. We spent four years in the academy and brainwashed every day of our stay into adhering to a code of honor, that we are to be always truthful and not to take advantage of another, only to realize that, in the case of Senator Biazon, the indoctrination we underwent is supposed to end as soon as we leave the fences of the PMA! And to think that the purpose of any education is supposed to last us for a lifetime even if any particular subject is merely taken up for a semester or so. It grieves me to think that the honor code failed to sink in the moral consciousness of some alumni, when the PMA training is designed to inculcate the principles of "courage, loyalty, integrity." If this is so, what a waste of four years under close government tutelage and care.—**COL. ROMEO A. SOLINA, PA, (ret.), Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City**

Official no longer with BJMP

I WISH to take exception to the claim of one Supt. Renato Gacutan that he represents "the rank-and-file" of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in asking for the exclusion of BJMP officer-in-charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit from the selection for the permanent chief of the bureau. (PDI, 9/4/01) The reason he advanced is that General Alit has "bogus" educational qualifications.

I will not dwell on the allegation of Mr. Gacutan concerning the educational qualifications of General Alit. I am sure he can ably defend himself. His qualifications, after all, had been scrutinized not once but many times by the Civil Service Commission and the Department of the Interior and Local Government every time he gets promoted. Both government agencies have found nothing wrong with his personal records, including his educational attainment.

I wish to dwell rather on the personal claim of Mr. Gacutan that he speaks and represents the rank-and-file of the BJMP. Unfortunately, this is a claim that he has to substantiate. As head of the directorate, Gacutan does not speak for the rank-and-file or the "uniformed officers and personnel" of the bureau. Mr. Gacutan certainly only speaks for himself and a disgruntled and overly ambitious few. The more than 6,000 officers and men of the bureau are solidly behind General Alit, the highest-ranking officer of the BJMP, who rose from the ranks through hard work and dedication to public service.

Mr. Gacutan cannot speak and represent the rank-and-file for the simple reason that he had been dropped from the rolls since May 7, 2001 for being absent without official leave (AWOL). Having been separated from the service, he cannot also continue to use his rank without committing misrepresentation.

In addition, I wish to put it on record that General Alit does not have pending civil and criminal cases, an allegation that Mr. Gacutan has been making in various forums. Certainly, this is a big lie.—**SENIOR SUPT. JOSE A. ESMERALDA III, BJMP, chief, Directorate for Personnel, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, 103 Kalayaan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City**

Will the Senate ever get to more substantive work?

CONGRESS is not a court of law. And the investigations it is conducting of the AFP-ASG connivance, drug trafficking and many others did not only waste time that ought to be spent on necessary legislation but also funds.

More than a month after its opening, the Senate and the House of Representatives have not yet deliberated on any of the economic measures recommended by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her State of the Nation Address. And the gargantuan national budget of P780B for calendar year 2002 has yet to be presented for deliberation.

It may not be amiss to say that the way Congress moves, the national government may not be able to have an approved national budget next year.

As may be gleaned from the televised Senate and House investigations, the senators and the representatives appear to be grandstanding while the accused and the accuser resort to mudslinging that is out of control. The Filipino people do not know anymore who is telling the truth.

The Filipino people are almost fed up with these endless investigations. They now say enough is enough and want that legislative machinery to start grinding. They are very eager to know what is in store for them in the Third Millennium.—**GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., Magallanes Iraya, Daet, Camarines Norte**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Fujimori charged with murder

LIMA—Peruvian prosecutor Nelly Calderon announced that she had filed formal murder charges against ex-president Alberto Fujimori, the first step toward seeking his extradition from Japan.

The complaint filed before the Supreme Court late Wednesday also charges Fujimori with kidnapping and inflicting serious injury, Calderon said in a statement.

Peru's Congress voted unanimously on Aug. 27 to charge Fujimori with homicide, inflicting serious injury and abduction for two massacres carried out by a 35-man paramilitary unit, all members of the armed forces, known as the Colina Group.

The first attack was in 1991, when 15 people, including a child, were gunned down at a house party in Lima's Barrios Altos district. The second was in 1992, when nine students and a professor were shot to death at La Cantuta University.

Fujimori, 62, has been living in Japan since November, when he fled Peru and resigned the presidency amid a widening corruption scandal involving his former right-hand man and secret police chief, Vladimiro Montesinos.

The Peruvian-born son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori holds Japanese citizenship. He insists that he is innocent.

In her charges Calderon said members of the Colina group—most of them currently in prison—had testified that Fujimori encouraged the attacks by promoting group members within the Army and giving them military decorations.

FUJIMORI

The kidnapping charges are related to Fujimori's alleged involvement in the disappearance and torture of Mariela Barreto, an intelligence agent who allegedly leaked information on government abuses to news reporters. Her decapitated and mutilated body was found in March 1997.

Calderon said that she was requesting the government to confiscate all of Fujimori's assets to guarantee reparation payments to the victims of the crimes.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government Thursday stood firm, saying it would refuse any request to extradite Fujimori.

"Under Japanese law, Japanese citizens cannot be extradited," said Takeshi Seto, a lawyer with the international affairs division of the Ministry of Justice's Criminal Affairs Bureau.

"The Japanese government will respond in accordance with Japanese law. We will respond accordingly," Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters at his official residence when asked for his reaction to the charges.

Also late Wednesday police arrested Victor Joy Way, a former Fujimori Cabinet minister, on charges of illicit enrichment and tax evasion.

Joy Way, of Chinese ancestry, was prime minister, finance minister and later head of Congress during the 1990-2000 Fujimori regime.

The former top official was arrested at his home in an upscale Lima neighborhood, and seen on television being taken away to a police station for booking. On Thursday he will be moved to a Lima prison, police said. *AFP*

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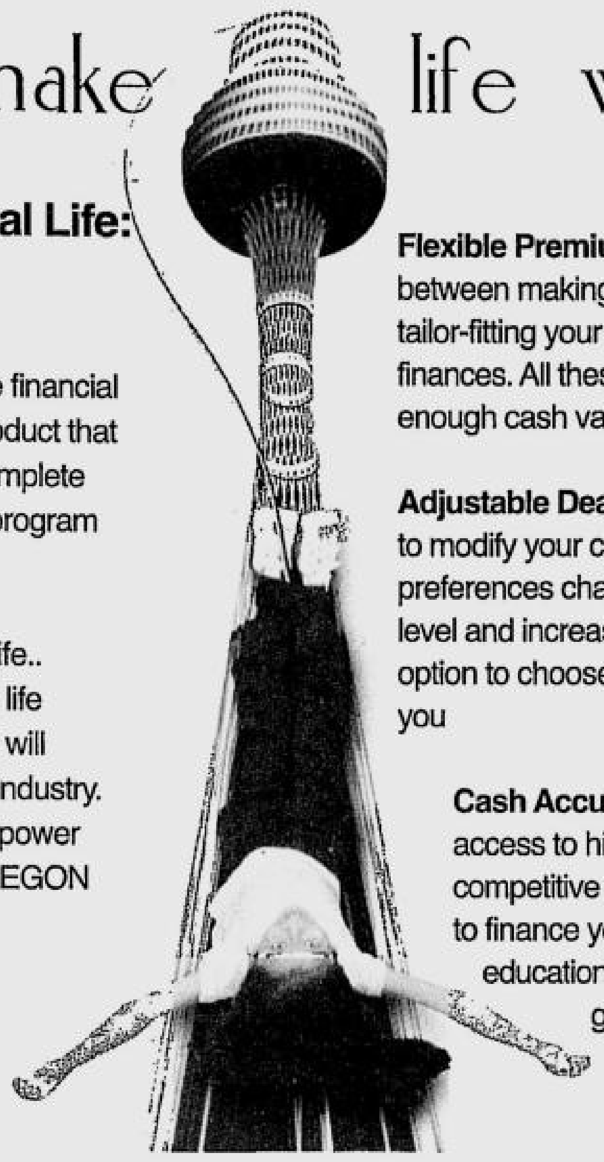

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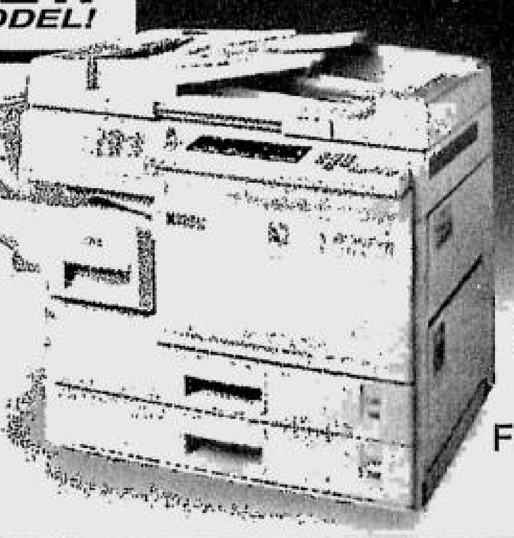

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A NUN helps a young girl take flowers to the tomb of Mother Teresa on her 4th death anniversary at the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, Sept. 5. Mother Teresa, Nobel laureate and founder of the order, died in Calcutta in 1997.
AP

Mother Teresa underwent exorcism, archbishop says

CALCUTTA, India—Mother Teresa had an exorcism performed on her while she was hospitalized in 1997, the Archbishop of Calcutta said Wednesday.

The disclosure by Archbishop Henry D'Souza came as hundreds of people in this eastern Indian city paid homage to the renowned caregiver on the fourth anniversary of her death.

But the Rev. Richard McBrien, a Notre Dame theology professor, called the exorcism and the archbishop's explanation for it "bizarre."

D'Souza said the exorcism would not affect the nun's candidacy for sainthood.

"No way. Mother was not possessed . . . it did not hurt her sanctity," D'Souza said. He said the need for the exorcism was a sign of her human side.

"Human dimension in a saint is quite normal," he said. "It was rather a sign of closeness to God."

He said the exorcism took place in a hospital where the nun was admitted because of heart trouble before her death on Sept. 5, 1997 at age 87. D'Souza said he was undergoing similar treatment at the same hospital.

The doctor treating Mother Teresa reported that she was having trouble sleeping, he said.

"There was no medical reason for that," the archbishop said. "It struck me that there could be some evil spirit which was trying to disturb her."

He said he had subsequently asked—with the nun's consent—for a priest in one of the churches to perform an exorcism.

Along with the priest, Mother Teresa participated in a "prayer of protection" and "slept peacefully after that," he said.

Catholic experts said it would be highly unusual for Mother Teresa to have undergone an exorcism.

Exorcism is extremely rare in the Catholic church and is used only when no psychological or physical explanation can be found for dramatic changes in behavior, said Scott Appleby, director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

McBrien, who teaches at the university, said exorcism is used only when the person is thought to be possessed by the devil.

"I cannot believe they would have allowed that to happen," McBrien said. "They could have performed the rite of the anointing of the sick. That's one of the sacraments. Exorcisms aren't sacraments."

McBrien agreed that an exorcism likely would not affect Mother Teresa's candidacy for sainthood. However, he questioned whether Mother Teresa was truly able to give her consent to such a procedure.

"People would challenge wills made by people in that circumstance," McBrien said. *AP*

Catholic kids face Protestant gauntlet again

BELFAST—The parents of Catholic schoolgirls who fled a Protestant bomb attack in terror said they would run the gauntlet again on Thursday, sparking fears of a fourth day of violence outside the flashpoint Belfast school.

The parents decided at a meeting on Wednesday night to walk a disputed route past a Protestant area to the school despite the continued violence. But they plan to consult security forces before actually setting out.

"It is a morning by morning decision of the parents," Catholic priest Aidan Troy said.

Wednesday's bomb attack, condemned by politicians on both sides of the religious gulf, signaled a new low point after three days of mounting violence, which has put five-year-old girls in the front line of a sectarian standoff.

Northern Ireland Minister John Reid, who came back early from his holiday to try to damp down rising tensions, said the British province was descending into barbarism.

British newspaper editorials deplored the seemingly unstoppable escalation of tension after weeks of brinksmanship between politicians from the rival Protestant loyalist and Catholic republican parties.

Protestant parties want to maintain the union with Britain, while Catholics want to sever ties and merge with the south.

"Is this really the United Kingdom in the 21st century? Is this really Northern Ireland, where they claim there is a 'peace process?'" asked the best-selling Sun tabloid. "For the sake of all our kids end this hate," said the Mirror.

None of the girls, who have endured torrents of abuse and rocks since the new school term began on Monday, was hurt in the bomb attack, although two policemen were seriously wounded. Police said three suspects had been arrested. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Australia refugee rebuff

SINGAPORE—The ship's captain who defied Australia's prime minister and rescued hundreds of refugees at sea insisted that he was not a hero and said he was "surprised and disappointed" by Australia's handling of the crisis. Norwegian Captain Arne Rinnan answered a distress call and rescued the men, women and children from a sinking Indonesian boat last month. At a news conference in Singapore Thursday, Rinnan and his first officer Christian Maltau gave details of their 11-day ordeal aboard their Norwegian cargo ship, the MV Tampa. The mostly Afghan refugees demanded to be taken to Australia where they hoped to seek asylum, but Australia's Prime Minister John Howard ordered Rinnan's vessel to stay out of Australian waters after the rescue. Rinnan said he "had no option" but to defy the order and approach Australia's remote Christmas Island, the nearest port. "To save people's lives, I did it," Rinnan said. *AP*

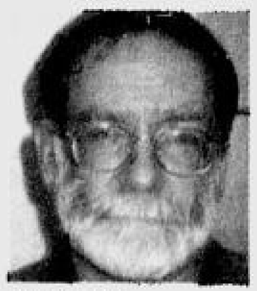
RINNAN

New Israel missile strike

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip—Israel, reacting to mortar bomb attacks, fired missiles at Palestinian security offices in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday in violence that coincided with preparations for possible ceasefire talks. Hours before the missile attack on a headquarter of the Force 17 security organization, a senior Palestinian official said President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres may meet in the region next week to try to end nearly a year of fighting. Palestinian security officials said at least one Force 17 member was wounded when two surface-to-surface missiles struck its Beit Hanoun headquarters in the northern Gaza Strip. *Reuters*

Serial-killer doctor

LONDON—Investigators trying to get an accurate count of a serial-killer doctor's victims placed advertisements in five British newspapers Thursday asking relatives of 82 of his patients for information about their deaths. Dr. Harold Shipman was convicted last year of murdering 15 elderly patients by injecting them with heroin, but investigators suspect that number may only be a fraction of his real body count. A coroner has identified 25 other deaths linked to Shipman as unlawful, and a government-commissioned report found he had 297 more deaths among his patients than should have been expected during his 24-year medical career. A public inquiry led by Dame Janet Smith, a high court judge, is scrutinizing the deaths of more than 460 of his patients. In 82 of those cases, Smith said, the panel had no information beyond an entry in the registry of deaths and no contact information for relatives. *AP*



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PNOC backtracks on Kanlaon project

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Philippine National Oil Corp. has withdrawn its plan to conduct geothermal exploration in the 169-hectare buffer zone inside the Mt. Kanlaon National Park (MKNP) because of massive opposition to the project.

"After listening to all the complaints, last week I called our senior officers to work on a plan wherein we will no longer have to enter the park to draw geothermal steam," said Sergio Apostol, PNOC-Energy Development Corp. chair.

He said the PNOC will only enter the buffer zone, not to build geothermal wells and roads, but to plant at least one million trees a year.

Bishop Vicente Navarra of the Bacolod Diocese welcomed the PNOC's decision although he urged the Negrenses to remain vigilant.

"I am very happy about the PNOC's decision but we will still continue our activities to ensure vigilance and to explain the issues to the public," he said.

Navarra said he wanted to put into writing the PNOC-EDC's commitment not to conduct geothermal exploration in the buffer zone.

Local officials in Negros Occidental were also happy at the PNOC's decision after they were informed by Apostol about it during a meeting on Wednesday.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella described the move as "an early Christmas gift for the Negrenses." He said he planned to arrange a meeting with Navarra and the PNOC officials on Sept. 17 to discuss about the withdrawal.

Navarra, along with the Save Mt. Kanlaon Now! Coalition, spearheaded the protests against the PNOC's entry in the MKNP, one of the few surviving national parks in the country.

The PNOC planned to build wells within the buffer zone of the national park to draw steam for the 40-megawatt geothermal power plant that the PNOC is building in Barangay Mailum, Bago City, about 21.5 kilometers south of here.

The power plant, which is located outside the MKNP, will be completed in 2004.

But the Bacolod Diocese and environmentalist groups were opposed to the PNOC's entry into the park because one of the last remaining forests in Negros Occidental is located inside the MKNP.

They said many centuries-old trees inside the park would be cut once the PNOC builds roads leading to the geothermal wells.

Apostol said their plan to build geothermal wells and roads within the buffer zone would no longer push through.

"We already have two geothermal wells outside the park that are capable of producing 16 megawatts of power," he said. "Our target is to build four more wells outside the park to be able to produce 40 megawatts of power."

He said the PNOC would only enter the buffer zone to plant one to two million trees a year.

"We will not cause any destruction. We need the trees to ensure the continued supply of geothermal steam," Apostol said.

PNOC also planned to relocate about 50 to 100 families living within and close to the buffer zone to allow its reforestation project to succeed.

The affected families, Apostol said, will each be given one to two hectares of land where they can resettle and start a new life.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 33° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 27°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/07/01

ROUNDUP

Students want principal out

VIRAC, Catanduanes—At least 500 students of the Catanduanes National High School boycotted their classes and picketed the school last week, calling for the ouster of their principal Leandro Crispino. They claimed he "abused" the teachers who have shown dismay over his decisions and treated some teachers unfairly by deploying them to other campuses without consultation and valid reasons. The students added that Crispino collected funds that were not audited. Crispino, the CNHS principal for nine years, dismissed the allegations and said the Ombudsman had cleared him of the charges. The education department in the region ordered the transfer of Crispino to its division office in Catanduanes.

Joanna Bernal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Grenade blast kills 1

NAGA CITY—A grenade exploded about 3 p.m. Tuesday inside a room at the Casugad Elementary School in Bula, Camarines Sur, killing a person and injuring three others, a Philippine National Police report said. The report identified the dead as Raymund Lasa and those injured as Tomas Ilagan, 47; Moises Bernal, 50 and Rex Metudio, 30. The victims were cleaning the ceiling of the principal's office when a grenade fell, the report said. Lasa, who thought the grenade was a ball, picked it up. The grenade exploded, killing him instantly. Police are still investigating why there was a grenade in the ceiling of the principal's office.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cell phone gang strikes

ROXAS CITY—Police authorities said a gang of cell phone snatchers is now operating in the city after an employee of the AMA Computer Learning Center lost her Nokia 3210 cellular phone to two unidentified suspects on Monday. Sheila Abella, 24, said she was standing at the corner of Legaspi and Huges Streets when the gangsters snatched her cellular phone. She said the suspects were riding in a red motorcycle without a license plate.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

NPA recruiting minors–AFP

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The New People's Army has stepped up its recruitment of minors from rural areas here and in nearby regions, military intelligence reports said. Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, commanding general of the 5th Infantry Division, said the NPA has resorted to forcing minors to join the communist movement due to their failure to recruit adults. Alvarado said minors captured by Army soldiers after firefights with the rebels were turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for custody and rehabilitation.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Ilocos Norte cleanest

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Ilocos Norte was cited the cleanest and greenest province in the Ilocos region in the recently concluded Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran Search. The province took over the title from La Union, which held the distinction for the last seven years. Laoag City was cited the cleanest and greenest city while Solsona, Ilocos Norte was awarded as the cleanest town in the region.

Peter La Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New magazine editor

SAN FERNANDO CITY—An Ilocano writer took over the helm of Liwayway, the country's 79-year-old Tagalog weekly magazine, as its new editor. Ilocano writer Reynaldo Duque replaced former Liwayway editor Rudy Salandanan who retired last June after winning a provincial board seat in his native Bataan. Duque is the magazine's former managing editor and is a member of GUMIL-Filipinas, the national association of Ilocano writers.

Peter La Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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Zamboanga PDI man writes '30'

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Jonathan Fadujilao Ma, 25, started to write for the INQUIRER in October 1999.

Until the time of his death yesterday, he was covering the military's Southern Command, submitting stories such as those on the Abu Sayyaf crisis in Basilan and Sulu.

Jonathan, eldest of four children of businessman Ma Chik King and Teresita Fadujilao, started his media career as a volunteer reporter for radio station dxXX.

After a few months, the Intercontinental Broadcasting Co. employed him as a full-time television reporter for Channel 11.

He has since become one of the family's breadwinners. Although his father runs a small business, the family's income is far from being sufficient, prompting his mother Teresita to go to Abu Dhabi three years ago.

Silent

His 51-year-old father described him as a very silent person.

He said Jonathan, known as Jonma among his peers, was a strict guy and did not have any vices.

"He was very secretive. Nobody knows about his problems if there were any. He rarely shared his problem (with others)," the elder Ma said.

But Jonma was so industrious that he became the favorite of several officials, including former Southern Command chief, now Armed Forces chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

He was even hired by Villanueva as a researcher.

Catherine, 24, Jonathan's sister, said the family had no inkling that when he left for Manila on Sept. 4, he would not come home alive anymore.

"When he left, he was happy. *Iyong mga gamit niya na naiwan nilagyan niya ng 'no ma mete'* (don't touch) *kasi babalik pa daw siya,*" Catherine said.

Secretive

Like her father, Catherine said she did not know of any problems bugging Jonathan.

If there was any, she said, the family had no way of knowing it as Jonathan would share his woes only with Kimberly, a 5-year-old niece who was his favorite.

Al Alhabsi, one of Jonathan's friends, said he was very straight.

"I never saw him drink or smoke. After writing his articles, he would play computer games at the Southcom until 10 p.m. After that, he would go home already," Alhabsi said.

Roel Parreno said Jonathan was so strict that it was difficult to crack a joke about him "but he was a good guy."

Jonma was found dead in an apartelle in Parañaque City yesterday.

In a report submitted to Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, Jonma's last address was listed as 521 A.S. Alvarez Drive, Alfaro St., Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

Short stay

According to Insp. Glen Tigson, chief of the Parañaque police Criminal Investigation Division, Jonma checked in at Room II-3 of the Orange Apartelle on Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Kabihasnan Road, Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque, on Tuesday at 12:32 p.m.

He arrived in Manila Sept. 4.

Around 2:45 a.m. yesterday, room boy Ricky Niez, 26, knocked on the door because Jonma had already exceeded his stay. After a few minutes of knocking, Niez did not get a response.

The room boy managed to open the door with a duplicate key. He found Jonma's lifeless body hanging inside the bathroom. Jonma had apparently used shoelaces to hang himself with.

Niez reported the matter to his supervisor who then called the police.

According to investigating officer SPO1 Alberto Pereña, investigators discovered a press card identifying the victim as a correspondent for the INQUIRER based in Zamboanga City.

Pereña also found a handwritten suicide note and a tape recorded farewell addressed to a woman who lives in Las Piñas City.

Last request

Jonma's last request was for his body to be cremated and brought back to Zamboanga City.

Tigson said no evidence to suggest foul play was found. "There were no signs of a struggle and no external injuries," Tigson told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added that police also found empty wrappers of paracetamol, a medicine for headaches and fever, inside the room.

Tigson also revealed that he had already questioned the woman to whom the suicide note was addressed as part of the police's investigation.

"She said she knew him but denied that they had a relationship," Tigson said. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Alcuin Papa***

Rise in dengue cases worries N. Ecija exec

CABANATUAN CITY—The provincial health officer of Nueva Ecija has expressed fears that the number of dengue fever cases this year may become the highest registered in the last 10 years in the province.

Dr. Bienvenido de Guzman, provincial health officer, said as of Aug. 29, his office has already recorded 1,430 dengue cases in the province.

Of this number, six had died, he said. The fatalities were from the towns of Pantabangan, Bongabon, Talavera and Rizal.

De Guzman said the highest number of dengue cases in the province was 1,502, recorded in 1999. In that year, he said, 10 victims died.

De Guzman said he feared that the 1999 record would be surpassed, saying all the 27 towns and five cities of Nueva Ecija have now reported cases of dengue fever.

In the past years, he said, there were many towns in the province that did not have dengue fever cases.

He said the number of dengue cases this year had already surpassed the second highest record in 10 years—1,379 recorded in 1998. That year, however, 21 victims died.

Records of the provincial health office here said six dengue cases were reported in 1991. In 1992, three cases were reported while in 1993, there were 12 cases.

Nueva Ecija has the most dengue cases in Central Luzon. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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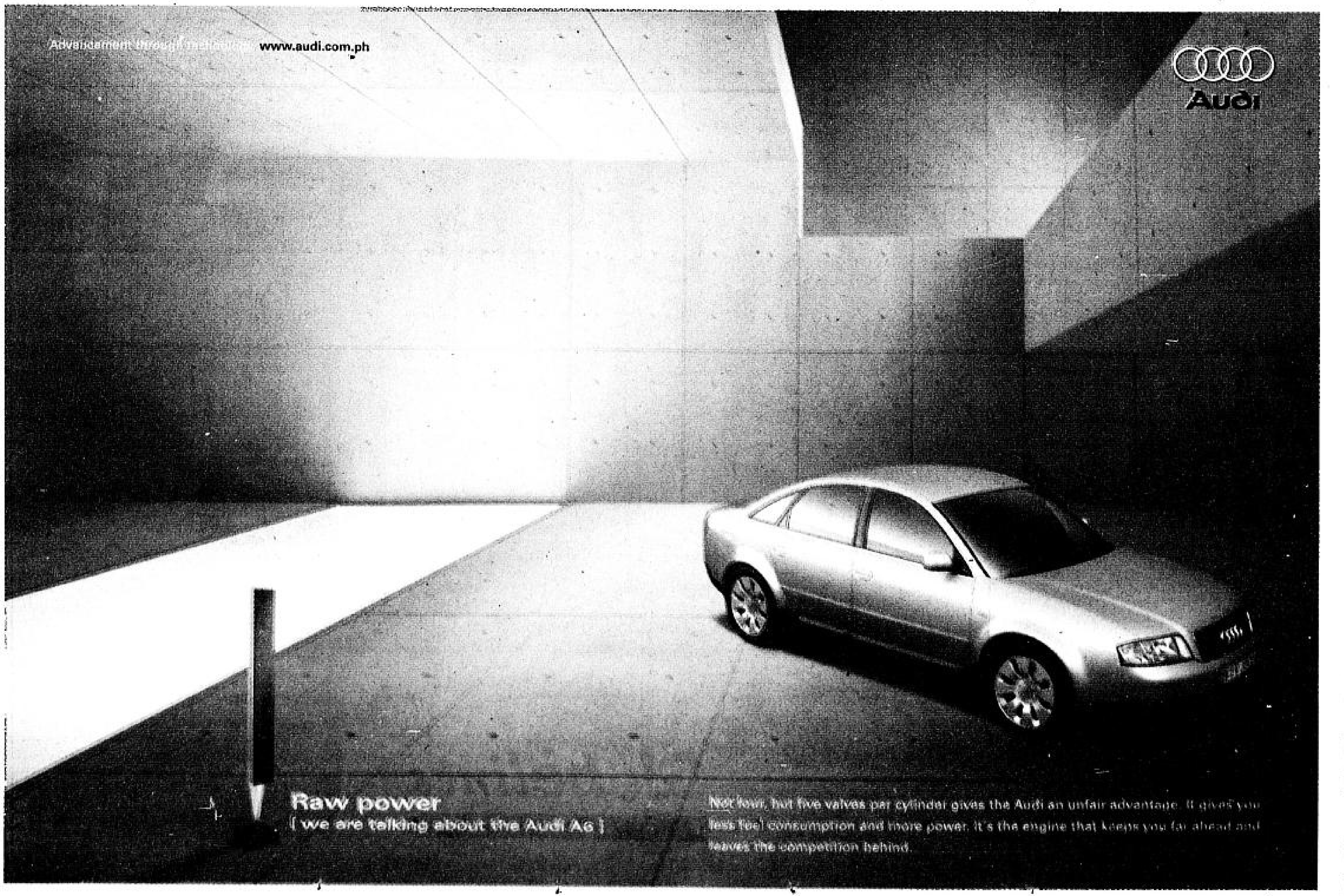

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US firm defies protests against genetic crops

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What warmer welcome can a President get than to be greeted on the streets by smiling children? Schoolchildren were on the streets of Digos City to greet President Macapagal during her visit Sept. 5.

CAUAYAN CITY—The agricultural firm Monsanto Philippines will push through with its genetically modified organism-laced corn tests in at least 10 towns in Isabela despite opposition to the alleged ill effects of Bt-corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis*).

Dr. Victor Alpuerto, Monsanto Philippines project coordinator, said the project was approved by the National Committee on Bio-safety of the Philippines under the Department of Science and Technology.

Monsanto Philippines has already planted Bt-corn in Barangay Villaluna in Cauayan City and Barangay Carulay in Echague town although the field tests have yet to be approved and endorsed by the Isabela provincial board.

The board suggested that the issue be tossed back for decision to the municipal councils of the towns identified as field testing areas.

But Alpuerto said the company is not required to conduct public hearings because the tests were already approved by the NCBP.

He said Monsanto was willing to launch an "awareness campaign" on Bt-corn.

He said groups threatening to uproot the crops face legal action from Monsanto.

In a pastoral letter read in parishes in the province, Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan and the Isabela clergy urged residents to oppose the field-testing.

"They (clergy) should prove their allegations," Alpuerto said in reaction to the pastoral letter. "Their claim of contamination is mainly pollen transfer. Contamination is a negative word. Of course, pollen transfer is a natural phenomenon."

He said people were misinformed on the basic terms of biotechnology.

"Let us give the farmers enough options on how to improve their land and crop production. We should welcome this kind of development," he said.

In Bukidnon, however, local officials said militant groups gave an ultimatum that they would take more drastic actions to fight the entry of GMOs into the country.

On Tuesday, groups opposed to GMO experiments, particularly Bt-corn, flocked to Bukidnon and entered a 500-square meter lot that Monsanto uses to test Bt-corn.

The militant groups, backed by the Church, told local governments they faced condemnation should they allow the testing of GMOs.

Officials of Bukidnon said the protesters gave the local government five days to revoke the license to test given Monsanto or militants would invade more experimental farms and uproot crops.

But some officials said a resolution that allows the tests would not be withdrawn. "The behavior of those people who were not from our town or even part of our constituency, and dictate (to) us what to do, was an utter show of disrespect," said Councilor Jaime Serina. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Conflict over, Gloria says

CABANATUAN CITY—Saying that the time for conflict is over, President Macapagal-Arroyo called on Novo Ecijanos Sunday to join her once more in efforts toward nation building.

She also promised to help Nueva Ecija, considered as a bailiwick of ousted President Joseph Estrada, play its vital role as the "rice bowl of Central Luzon."

The President was here as guest during the 105th Nueva Ecija Day celebration. She was introduced by Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson III, a close friend of Estrada, before 7,000 Novo Ecijanos who attended Mass at the JF Sports Complex here.

Ms Macapagal said it was her first visit to the province in the last two-and-a-half years.

She also admitted that she knew many Novo Ecijanos joined the so-called Edsa III in April in support of Estrada.

Edsa III

Edsa III culminated in the riotous siege of Malacañang on May 1.

"I am here. I know there's a time for conflict but this is no longer the time for conflict. This is a time for building our nation together once more," she said.

Nueva Ecija is considered an opposition province, except during the abbreviated administration of Estrada. In the May 14 elections, most senatorial candidates of the opposition won in the province.

Ms Macapagal acknowledged that during the Philippine Revolution, Nueva Ecija had many brave generals and that the province played a key role in the uprising.

But she said the role of the province should now shift to producing more agricultural products, especially rice.

Priority

Ms Macapagal said in her speech that in the government's agriculture modernization program, Nueva Ecija is in the priority list.

She said other provinces in Central Luzon, because of varied problems, have lessened their rice production outputs and it is Nueva Ecija that could carry the brunt of producing more rice.

"*Sana huwag ninyong iiwan ang papel ninyong iyan* (I hope you will not abandon your role as the top rice-producing province in Central Luzon)," she said.

She also took the occasion to announce that in spite of controversies and delays, the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project is now finished and will be inaugurated on Sept. 28.

She said the project would initially irrigate 15,000 hectares of riceland in Nueva Ecija. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

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Evacuees worry about food

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BOTOLAN, Zambales—With seven children and two grandchildren in tow, Roşie Pango on Wednesday went to an evacuation center at the Ramon Magsaysay Technological University here.

Receiving timely warning, they took along a sack full of clothes and blankets, a cauldron, a gas stove and three plastic mats from where they live in Barangay Porac.

Pango, 42, held tight her tattered *bayong* (nipa basket). In it were two kilos of rice, five packs of noodles and a cup of salt.

"After we eat these, there's no more food," she said.

An assurance that they would get food was what Pango asked from Botolan Mayor Roger Yap. Scarcity is a reality in evacuation camps, she reminded him.

Pango spoke from experience. She lived for more than a year in a tent city beside a national road after Mt. Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

After the violent eruptions, a total of 1.3 million people were housed in more than 300 evacuation camps set up all over Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

In Barangay Carael, Tessie Dial has the same concern. She only boarded the Army truck after Yap had assured her of adequate food.

"Do not neglect us," Dial, 52, cried out loud to Yap before the truck sped off to an evacuation center in Loob-Bunga. Yap replied by nodding.

Throughout Botolan, the rice bins and warehouses are hardly filled. Harvest is a month away.

Not quite a few residents consider the opening of the canal on Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake on Thursday as bad timing.

But the breaching of the crater walls has 'to be done immediately to ease the pressure of overflow or breakout on the near-filled crater-lake during the remaining months of the rainy season, government volcanologists said.

Evacuation uproots families from the communities where they derive food, according to Pango and Dial.

The men have remained in the village not only to guard belongings but also to ensure that they can bring something to eat to their families in the centers.

Pango said her husband Maximo would sail out to sea on Wednesday, despite the strong waves, to catch fish.

Before lunchtime at the Loob-Bunga evacuation center, the women lost no time looking for *kamote* (sweet potato) tops. Relief goods were coming only on Wednesday night, it was learned.

In Baquilan, Aeta men wanted to cross the Maraunot and Bucao rivers to get to Barangay Burgos, some 10 km. from the volcano, to get sweet potatoes.

Not now, said their wives. They urged everyone to make do with the little supply left or wait for the relief packs to come on Wednesday night.

Unlike in 1991, the evacuation in Botolan's 23 threatened villages was orderly. But again, schools were not really designed as refugee camps.

Space is limited in classrooms where 10 families are housed. Toilets, faucets and pumps are inadequate. Schools converted into evacuation centers like in Loob-Bunga do not have electricity or water pumps.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

THE WATER flow that never was is avidly watched by children of Aeta evacuees.

Design flaw slows flow

(From page A1)

Punongbayan said a controlled daylight drain was preferable to waiting for a natural crack, which could come in the middle of the night.

Over the past week, government engineers and Aeta tribesmen have been digging a 2-meter wide, 4-meter high and 75-meter long canal at the banks of the 3-km wide lake for the controlled release of water.

The scenic crater-lake, which has attracted international hikers and campers in recent years, rose to dangerous levels during the May-October rainy season.

Unless water is drained, it could shatter the crater's upper walls, geologists said.

In June 1998, a similar crater-lake collapsed in Nicaragua's Casita volcano under pressure from Hurricane Mitch. More than 2,000 people were killed.

In his radio message from the Maraunot notch, Eduardo Bautista, public works engineer supervising the canal construction, said that his team did not immediately realize that the tall slope and boulders would pose a problem.

Sincioco admitted that the construction of the canal was done without the benefit of soil boring and other technical studies.

He said the heavy rains prevented them from conducting the studies.

A crew of 25 workers—including United States Geological Survey volcanologist Chris Newhall—rushed yesterday to remove the boulders and scrape the slope by half a meter to allow the planned volume of water to escape from the 1,445-meter volcano.

That volume, at a gradual discharge, is expected to mobilize between 30 million and 100 million cubic meters of lahar within the middle reaches of the Maraunot and Bucao rivers, according to Sincioco.

Starting past 2 p.m., the lake released 1,800 cubic meters per hour, Punongbayan told the INQUIRER.

The water reached Hill 442, the second lahar watch point 10 km from the volcano, without mobilizing lahar.

Scientists have five watch points along the path of the water to monitor the flow.

Further delays

There are yet no official statements if the excavation work would take more days but the request for more food and diggers and the initial plan for additional troops to reach the crater via the Tarlac side of the volcano indicate further delays.

Sincioco said the Phivolcs did not want further delays because of the dangers posed by a lake breakout or overflow during a storm if no engineering intervention was done.

"The decision is to take out the obstructions now," he said.

"The boulders and the tall slope have to be removed to ease the tension of the people and prevent their long stay in evacuation centers. We don't have enough resources," Sincioco said in Filipino.

Food shortage

Mayor Roger Yap raised fears of food shortage in the evacuation camps because supplies were only good until yesterday.

The evacuees from 23 threatened villages are housed in 21 evacuation centers in Botolan and in the nearby capital town of Iba.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council has released only P500,000 worth of food supplies.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER said the evacuees complained of delays or non-delivery of food supplies.

Thousands of people evacuated villages in Botolan town at the mouth of the Bucao River 40 km from the volcano on Wednesday and Thursday for fear run-off from the crater could deluge their homes in up to 4 meters of debris, mud and water.

The Department of Education (DepEd) has suspended classes in Zambales following the scheduled draining of the crater-lake.

Education Secretary Raul Roco said both private and public schools could not possibly hold classes as residents of the communities near the volcano began fleeing their homes.

Roco said schools in Iba and Botolan would not be holding classes to allow the students and their families to participate in the disaster preparedness operations being conducted in the communities.

A total of 18,658 students in 40 elementary schools and six high schools are affected by the indefinite suspension of classes.

The DepEd regional office in Zambales, along with the Zambales Provincial Coordinating Council, has conducted meetings and information dissemination activities in connection with the release of water from the lake.

Onlookers

Many curious onlookers yesterday gathered along the river in the path of the expected water flow.

"I'm waiting to see if it will really happen," said Dennis Arzadon, 28, who stood on a Bucao River bridge for a chance to witness a flash flood that, he hoped, would safely pass under him. "We were here at 7 a.m. but it's still the same. It's boring."

The river's swift waters glistened in the sun as dozens looked in vain for any sign of a rapid increase in volume.

Beatrice Pacheco, 32, washed a pile of dirty laundry in the river as the crater was breached.

"There's no water upland and I really have to do the laundry," she said. "My kids have nothing to wear."

Three small children, one clinging to a floating banana tree trunk, splashed in the river around her. *With reports from AP and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila; Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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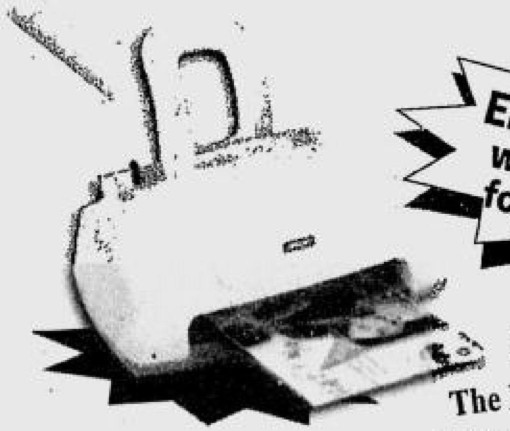

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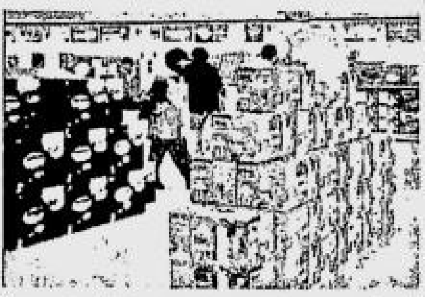

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A 'fool' for peace remembered

BY TONY S. BERGONIA

IRONICALLY, peace was the most spoken word at a special Mass on Wednesday night for Irish priest, Rufus Halley, who met his death in a hail of bullets.

Outside the church, the alarm system of a parked van kept going off. The sound of crickets broke the shrill cry of a baby being forced to sleep by a loudly cursing woman tending a stall on a dark sidewalk.

Two boys chased each other playfully on the church's grounds while beyond its fence a half-naked boy chased after a taxicab.

But inside the church, it was a yearning for peace that pulled Christians and Muslims together to pay tribute to the Columban martyr.

Peace could start with the Columban Society's decision not to press charges against the killers of Halley, said Colm McKeating, regional director of the Columban Missionary Society, in his eulogy.

It was a eulogy rich in anecdotes of how Halley tried to transcend ideological and religious beliefs to bring together people of diverse creeds and cultures.

Halley, according to McKeating, "trusted fully" in people.

It was this trust, McKeating said, that removed all barriers between Halley and communist guerillas and their leaders during martial law.

Recalling an exchange of letters between Halley and Luis Jalandoni, former priest and now National Democratic Front leader, McKeating said Halley offered shelter to people in trouble with the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

"If you need a place to stay, you are welcome at my place," McKeating quoted Halley as telling Jalandoni in those days.

The invitation to Jalandoni was extended to "others in your group, too."

The invitation was accepted. In 1988, when Halley and Jalandoni met in Manila, it was Halley who made the first move, approaching Jalandoni and asking: "Do you remember me? I'm Rufus."

Halley, Rufus to his fellow Columbans, was ordained in 1969 and in the same year was sent to the Philippines.

He spent his first years in the country in Silang, Cavite, learning Tagalog while endearing himself to the town's poor.

"But Rufus was not at peace" with himself, according to McKeating, "so he went on soul-searching about his direction" and left the Philippines briefly.

The search led back to the Philippines, in Mindanao.

Despite his internal conflict, McKeating said Halley continued to trust in his belief that "people are human everywhere."

People were human even in Malabang, a predominantly Muslim coastal town in Lanao del Sur where masked men gunned down Halley on Aug. 28.

It was in this area where Halley, a native of Waterford, Ireland, spent 20 years, at first living with a Muslim family and tended a sari-sari store.

He drew the curiosity of the predominantly Muslim community because he was the lone "*mukhang luko-lukong Kano* (crazy white guy)there to hand out vinegar, canned goods to buyers," said McKeating.

His closeness to Muslims went beyond the family who briefly adopted him.

Halley continued efforts made by other priests to bring people together in an area where about 70 percent of the residents are Muslims and 30 percent, Christians.

Halley helped maintain a school in Malabang where Muslim and Christian students co-existed peacefully.

Halley and the priests before him had no intention to convert anyone to the Catholic faith, said McKeating, only to make Muslims and Christians "live as good neighbors."

Despite his efforts to make good neighbors of Muslims and Christians, however, "there were warnings," according to McKeating.

But on that night of the tribute, the warnings were forgotten. For where the warnings had come, tributes poured forth from the Muslim community in Malabang. They fused with the Catholic rites for a dearly departed.

"We seem to be the victims of this barbaric murder," said a letter of Malabang's Muslim community that McKeating read during the Mass.

"It is sad to say that the Maranaos whom he cared for so much are the same people who took him away."

It was clear that no one undetstood, or wanted to understand the violent death of a man of peace.

The priests who spoke at the altar could offer no explanation.

There was none in McKeating's eulogy where he said "nothing matures to perfection without pain."

There was also none in Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco's tribute. In a prepared speech, Franco just said Halley had become "more Muslim than most Muslims."

"We suffer much grief from the death of Fr. Popong . . . ," said Franco, "but his efforts to bring Muslims and Christians together would be kept alive."

McKeating said the Muslim-Christian unity that Halley worked so hard to bring to reality would not end up being just a dream after Halley's death.

"There would be more men like him, I'm sure of that," he said.

But he also expressed sadness over the killing of foreign priests in Mindanao and said the Columbans have started to accept it as fact.

"Being a foreigner (in Mindanao) is becoming difficult," he said, "because foreigners are targets."

The Columban Society, he said, now has 10 Filipino priests who may soon take over the missionary roles of the mostly Irish members of the religious order.

While acknowledging that peace seems to be elusive right now in Mindanao, McKeating expressed optimism that peace is attainable.

"When we really get to the bottom of it, it is through understanding each other that we can have peace," said McKeating, whose light green eyes reflected his smile

And as the night wore on, a passage from the Koran that McKeating quoted in his eulogy became less and less difficult to understand:

"Those who are close to Allah are those who walk humbly on the earth. When people say 'Fool,' they simply reply: 'Peace be with you.'"

Halley could be such a fool.

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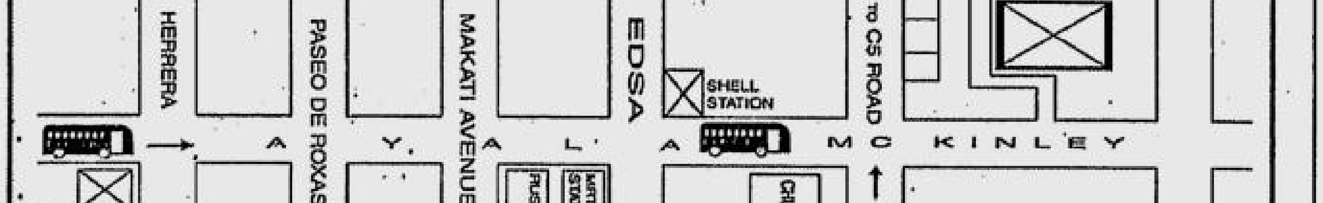

Abus released Reghis, Lamitan folk tell Senate

WITNESSES AT SENATE HEARING ON PUBLIC SECURITY

PHOTOS: JOAN BONDOC

FR. CIRILO NACORDA

DANILO BENTOY

JAIME DE LA CRUZ

CORAZON TROTA

NESTOR DEMOCRITO

SALBINA FONTILLAS

(From page A1)

his captors.

The testimony of other witnesses tended to show that money changed hands before Romero's supposed escape.

The witnesses were presented yesterday by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, parish priest of Lamitan and himself a former hostage of the Abu Sayyaf.

Nacorda has accused Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Jovenal Narcise and three other military officers of colluding with the Abu Sayyaf and allowing the bandits to escape from Lamitan early on June 2.

The bandits, led by their spokesperson Abu Sabaya, stormed the Dr. Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan the previous evening, bringing with them the Filipino and American hostages they took from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27.

Resident Corazon Trota said that in the morning of June 2, she was in one of the rooms in the hospital with Romero and his purported girlfriend Riza Santos when Sabaya came looking for the couple.

"Where are they? Reghis, Reghis! You can come out now!" Trota said she heard Sabaya shouting in Filipino.

She said that on seeing Romero, Sabaya told him that he could leave.

"Just tell (the authorities) that you escaped. And bring the child with you," Trota quoted Sabaya as saying, in apparent reference to 9-year-old hostage RJ Recio.

Trota, however, said she did not see the child from where she was.

Another resident, Fr. Rene Enriquez, said he heard RJ's parents ask the Abu Sayyaf to let Romero and Santos take the child with them before their supposed escape.

Noel Notario, whose wife and child were confined at the hospital, said he was looking out an open door inside the hospital when he saw a man and a woman pass by. He said the man was carrying a child.

According to Notario, an Abu Sayyaf guard watching over their group also saw the couple walking away, and immediately asked another bandit about it.

Notario, a Muslim, claims to understand the language spoken by the Abu Sayyaf.

"I overheard someone nearby answer '*Nalukat na,*' which means they have already paid," he told the senators. "The guard watching over us asked, '*Bilasing?*' which means 'how much?' The other guard answered, '5 million *kuno.*'"

Pajamas

Lamitan resident Salvina Pontillas said she saw a man dressed in pajamas, accompanied by a woman wearing a polo shirt and a child, pass her house shortly after Scout Rangers pulled out of their area for a supposed briefing.

Pontillas said the Scout Rangers and the bandits had earlier engaged in a gunfight. Some of the soldiers hid inside her house, which is located just 60 meters from the hospital, she said.

During a lull, she said, a Scout Ranger approached and asked her if some of his colleagues were hiding in her house.

"He told them to come out, that a briefing would be held," she said.

Pontillas said that 15 minutes after the soldiers left, she saw a man in pajamas, a woman and a child walking away from the hospital.

"They were already walking in front of my neighbor Mariña Serrano's house when some soldiers saw them. The man raised his arms. 'We are hostages,' he shouted," Pontillas said.

She recalled that her father also saw what was going on and remarked that the man was probably rich.

She said that she agreed with her father because the man they saw had smooth skin and the bearing of a rich person despite what he was wearing.

Attaché case

Fe Castro, a nurse at the Lamitan District Hospital, claimed seeing a helicopter land in the vicinity at about 10:30 a.m. on June 2.

Speaking in Taglish, this was how Castro recalled the incident:

Five uniformed soldiers alighted from the chopper, one of them carrying a black attaché case.

Castro inquired with other hospital staff about the soldiers and was told that the leader was a certain General Dominguez.

Initially, Dominguez checked on the condition of the wounded soldiers confined at the hospital.

Castro then ushered Dominguez and his companions to the hospital's conference room, where a certain Colonel Narcise waited for them.

Dominguez later emerged from the conference room and asked Castro where the hospital chief was.

She introduced Dominguez to Dr. Julius Aguila, and the two men then walked toward the conference room.

Castro was at the hospital's information counter when the soldier with the attaché case—"about one-by-one-and-a-half" feet and 3-inches thick—put it on the counter, and opened it.

"It was full of money, crisp P1,000 bills. I was just behind (the soldier), to his right, when he opened the attaché case halfway. Maybe he did not notice me because I was wearing green."

The soldier got five P1,000 bills and put them in a white envelope before going back to the conference room.

Dominguez and company, including the soldier carrying the case, left on board the chopper at about 11:45 a.m.

The general Dominguez returned in the afternoon in the same chopper. Apart from his aides, he was with "a certain Romero," an unidentified woman and a child referred to only as "Recio."

Castro learned from the others that they were hostages of the Abu Sayyaf taken from the Dos Palmas Resort.

Dominguez and the hostages proceeded to the conference room. Narcise followed.

A few minutes later, Dominguez and the hostages left in the chopper. Narcise was left behind, and promised to treat the hospital staff.

At the hearing, Castro was shown the attaché cases carried by the military officers invited. She said the one she saw was not among those presented to her.

Marketing strategy

In Tacloban City, Dominguez expressed the suspicion that Nacorda's allegations against him and four other officers might be part of a marketing strategy to promote a book narrating the experience of hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

Dominguez, now chief of the Samar-based 8th Infantry Division, noted that Nacorda aired his allegations on Aug. 3, just two days before the launching of the book "Into the Mountain," written by Jose Torres and published by Claretian Publications.

He said his suspicion deepened when he received a report that Nacorda attended the book's launch in Manila.

"I am curious. Why was it that he only started naming us when the book was about to be launched?" Dominguez told the INQUIRER. "I just hope Father Nacorda was not pressured into doing things he does not want to do."

This was the second time Dominguez questioned Nacorda's motive in accusing him and the four others of conniving with the Abu Sayyaf.

Last month, Dominguez urged the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to investigate whether Nacorda arranged the Abu Sayyaf's entry into Lamitan on June 2.

He said the CBCP should verify reports that the church in Lamitan was used as drop-off point for the supposed ransom for Romero, Santos and Recio. ***With a report from Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Ailing Akbar falls asleep in hearing

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

BASILAN Gov. Wahab Akbar was sent out of yesterday's Senate hearing on the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf because it appeared like he was catching 40 winks.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel noticed Akbar with his eyes closed while the other senators were questioning witness Fr. Rene Enriquez.

"Excuse me, I noticed that Governor Wahab is asleep," Pimentel exclaimed. He then warned Akbar about the "disrespectful body language" that the governor was exhibiting.

"Do you want to rest? We have rooms here (in the Senate) building. Maybe you can sleep inside the room of Sen. (Ramon) Magsaysay (Jr.)," Pimentel told Akbar. "I just want you to be very careful of the way you (comport) yourself."

Magsaysay chairs the Senate committee on national defense and security, which is conducting the inquiry.

Akbar was led to the Senate lounge, where he rested. Those who arrived with him said he had not been feeling well but decided to heed the Senate's invitation lest he be cited for contempt.

At one point in the hearing, Magsaysay excused himself to see how Akbar was doing.

"The governor has the flu, I think. His eyes are very red. He does not look well," Magsaysay told the INQUIRER after checking on Akbar.

He proceeded to the Senate clinic and asked the doctors there to attend to Akbar.

The governor was later excused from attending the hearing. Nevertheless, he returned just before the senators adjourned it.

But Magsaysay told him to go, saying, "Governor Akbar, I know how sick you are. You may go home."

At the hearing, civilian Jaime de la Cruz claimed seeing Akbar inside the Dr. Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, from where hostage Reghis Romero and two others supposedly escaped.

It was Akbar's supposed sighting inside the hospital that prompted the Senate to invite him to the hearing.

News website has nothing to hide

(From page A1)

Victoria Sinclair keeps a straight face as she reads the major stories of the day while stripping on NakedNews.com, the Internet site "with nothing to hide."

Launched just under two years ago with Sinclair as the single webcaster, NakedNews.com today has 12 presenters—eight women and four men—to attract more than 6 million "unique visitors" a month, said Kathy Pinckert, vice president of Naked Broadcasting Network Inc., which produces NakedNews.com.

Unique visitors are only counted once, no matter how many times they click on, so the NakedNews.com figure is large in the Internet industry, nearly two-thirds of the more than 9 million visitors a month registered by CNN, Pinckert explained.

Now NakedNews.com will increase its exposure by launching a 45-minute cable television news show on a pay-per-view station.

Naked News TV! will make its debut Friday on Viewer's Choice for $2.65 an episode. A new edition will become available each Friday.

Like the website, Naked News TV! will have nude presenters of both sexes discussing news, business, sports, entertainment and other stories.

"Naked News is the first Internet news program to go from the Web to cable television," Pinckert said. "We are genuinely excited to play a role, along with Viewer's Choice, in leading the convergence of the virtual world with the tangible world."

William J. Clusters, the Viewers' Choice Canada director of programming and marketing, called NakedNews.com "breakthrough programming" on the Internet that would be equally powerful on cable television with its combination of news and entertainment.

On the website Wednesday, entertainment seemed to be the focus.

Sinclair began unbuttoning the top of her two-piece gray outfit during the first item, on the UN racism conference in South Africa.

Next went the skirt, revealing frilly, dark blue lingerie.

She clasped her hands in front to introduce another story, then reached behind to undo and remove her bra. Before sliding down her panties, she took out a pin and shook loose her long brown hair.

Other segments featured already nude presenters simply standing and talking. The camera panned back to provide a full frontal shot with nothing covered.

"They are simply doing their job naked," Pinckert said. "Clearly we have attractive people and clearly it is a draw. What keeps us alive and well, though, is the news content."

She said the breakdown of visitors was about 80 percent men, 20 percent women, with most in the 18-34 age group known to avoid news programs.

Now the goal is to bring that interest to cable television.

"The Internet is a valuable incubator for projects," she said. "You can gain an instant audience." *AP*

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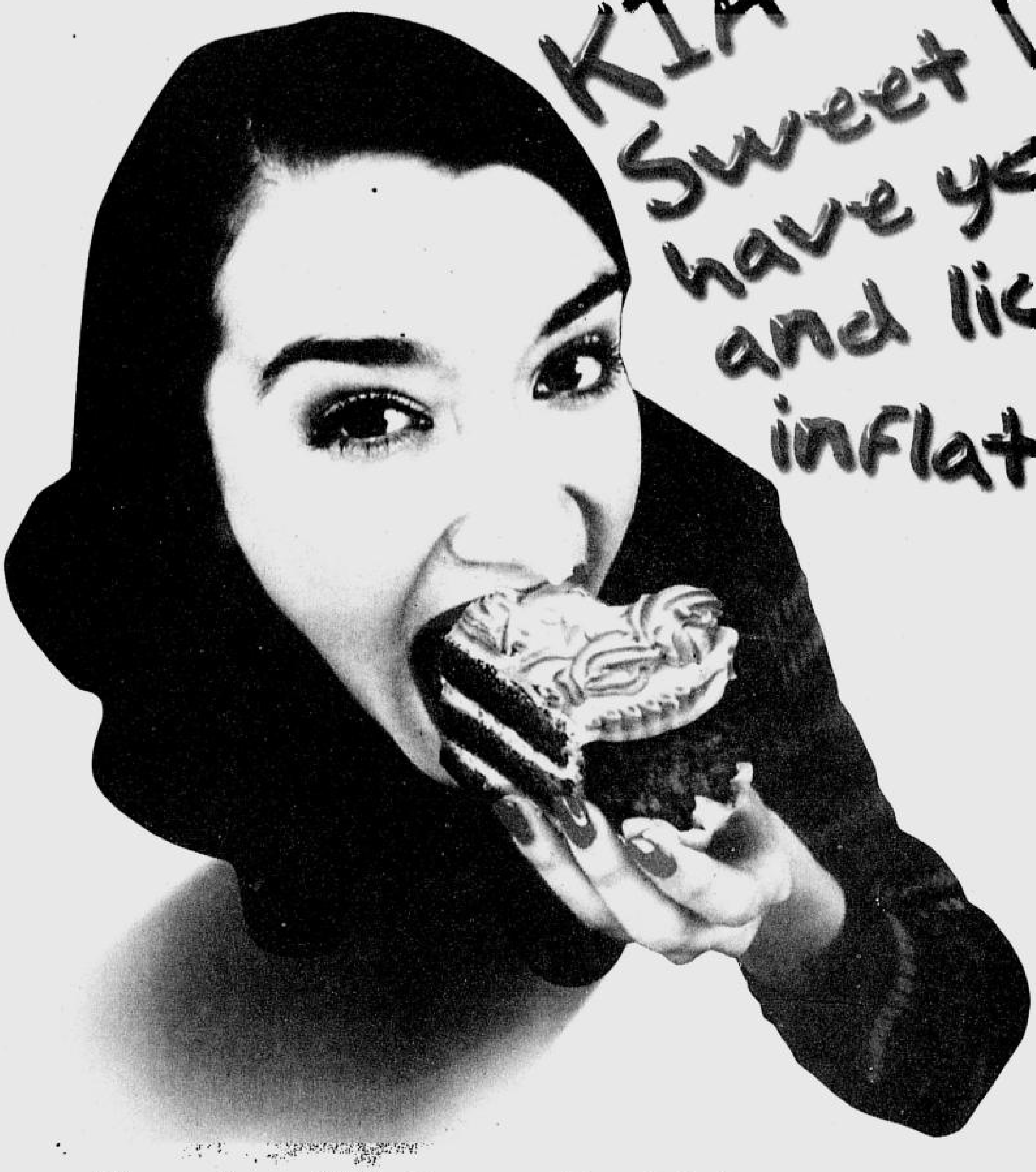

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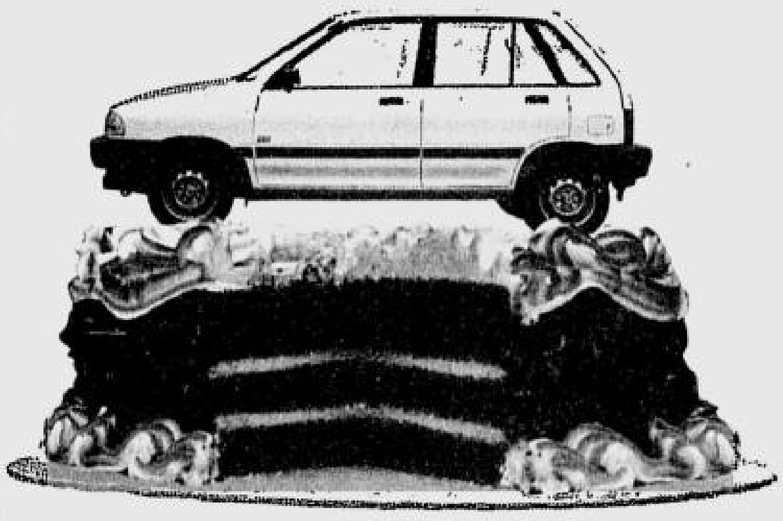

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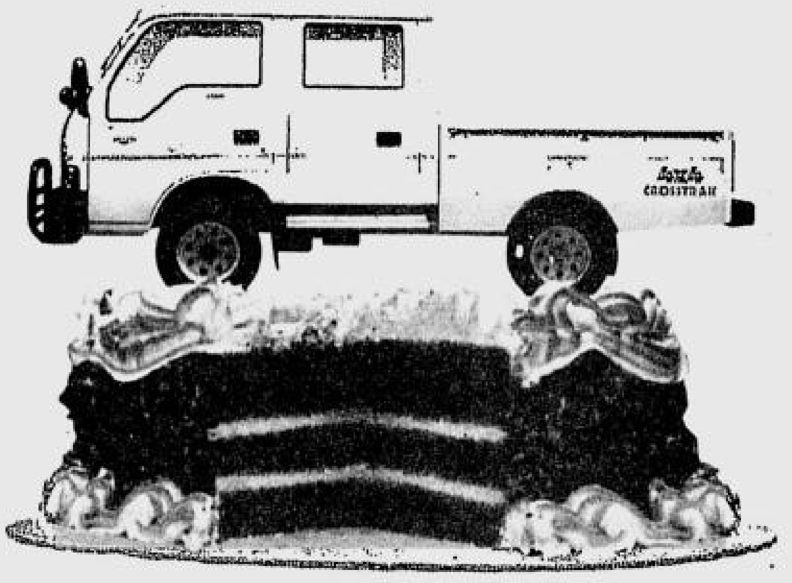

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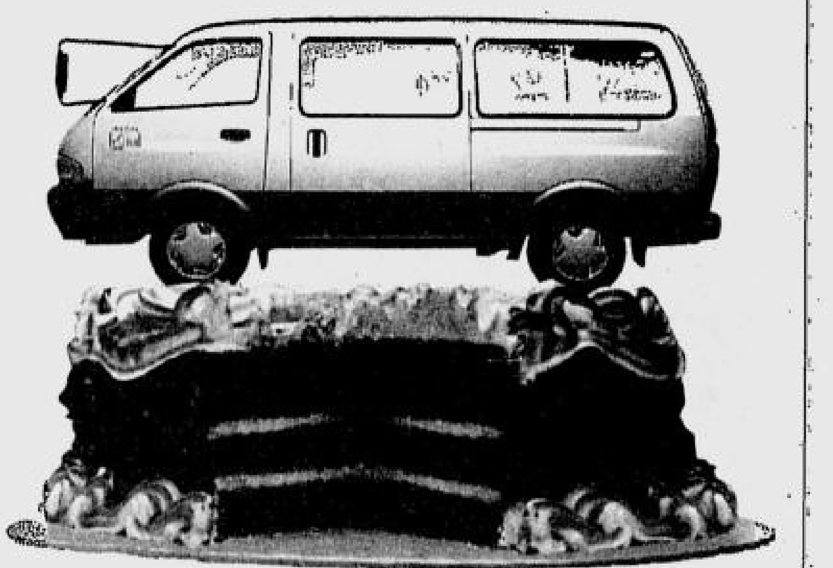

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Ping hit for 'fake' report

(From page A1)

lice Intelligence Group, saw Chan's report before it was submitted to Corpus. Both agreed that the original did not contain derogatory remarks about Ong's credibility.

"There is only one report that was approved by the joint military and police team that went to the United States, and this report has been labeled secret," Mendoza said.

Each page of Chan's report, dated June 28, is marked "Secret" at the top and bottom. The document in Lacson's possession is not similarly marked, and does not bear Chan's signature.

The document made public by Lacson on Wednesday is also dated June 28, and contains several paragraphs about the alleged findings of US Customs Service officials on Ong's credibility. According to this version, Ong's statements to the Americans were "full of inconsistencies, half-truths and half-lies."

The team was reportedly working with US customs agents who were allegedly interested in establishing whether there was reason to file a money laundering case against Lacson, the former PNP chief under the Estrada administration.

But Chan's original report, a copy of which the INQUIRER obtained earlier from another team member, does not contain the disparaging statements against Ong. There are also a few minor differences in the format of the documents.

Looking for leak

"If there is another version of my report, as Lacson was saying, then he merely made up that report or this report is either fake or tampered with," Mendoza said.

"*Nagdagdag-bawas siya or puro dagdag* (Either he added to and subtracted from the report, or he just added to it)."

Chan said he had learned about Lacson's claim after he read the online version of the INQUIRER banner story yesterday. He said he then asked the Isafp to fax to him the print version of the article.

Told that Lacson reportedly got his copy of the alleged Chan report from junior intelligence officers, the colonel said he has already asked the agency to investigate the reported leak.

"I am surprised that (Lacson) got a copy of my report but I am not surprised why he is becoming so desperate. But I have to give it to him, he is good at lying by attributing to me the report that he himself has manufactured," Chan said.

Chan, Mendoza and Liscano, in consultation with lawyer Stephen Jarumay, counsel of the team, discussed the contents of the report that detailed the month-long investigation in Hong Kong and the United States, and agreed that Lacson's version was fake.

'Petty quarrel'

Asked to comment on Corpus' claim that Chan and Ong had a "serious fight" that resulted in "biased" statements against Rosebud, Chan said: "Mary and I and the rest of the team members have various personalities and we clashed from time to time but it was not serious. Petty quarrels, I would say. That's just natural. We are still humans."

He emphasized that "the nearly month-long mission in the US was successful. We were able to establish that Lacson indeed has ill-gotten wealth."

Mendoza, for his part, said Corpus would not have risked presenting Ong to testify against Lacson before the Senate had the Isafp chief found her not credible.

"The joint team would not have allowed Corpus to take such a risk had the US authorities indeed had such reservations about Ong's credibility as a witness," he said.

"The bottom line here is that there is an ongoing investigation that is being undertaken by the US government against Lacson's alleged money laundering in the United States.

"And Mary's information, based on her debriefings by the US Customs agents and the documentary evidence that the joint team presented to them, helped them in their ongoing probe," Mendoza said.

Perez doubts

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez also questioned the veracity of the report in Lacson's possession, claiming that the US Attorney General and not the US Customs Service should decide on the credibility of a witness in this kind of case.

"I don't believe that the US Customs would have issued such a statement," Perez said in Taglish. "It was not for the US Customs to decide on the credibility of the witness."

Perez told reporters that he was stunned upon learning of Lacson's accusation against Ong.

Ong, who has availed herself of the DOJ's Witness Protection Program, "would not have been placed under (the program) if the (justice) department did not believe in what she was saying," according to the justice chief.

He stressed that his office had extensively "interviewed her and (conducted) a thorough study" into her claims before accepting Ong into the witness protection program. ***With a report from Michael Lim Ubac***

Who is Alfred Lim?

CEBU CITY—Who is the Alfred Lim who is supposed to be Mary "Rosebud" Ong's lover?

During the Senate inquiry on Wednesday, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop said Ong and Lim, a suspected Cebuano drug lord who is now reportedly based in Alabang, Manila, were a couple.

In a radio interview, Ong said she knew three men named Alfred Lim, but none of them was involved in illegal drugs or hailed from Cebu.

In another interview, Sen. Panfilo Lacson backed Acop's claim that Lim was a drug lord and Cebuano resident who has moved to Alabang.

Lim's family, according to Lacson, used to own Sweet Lines, a known shipping company in Cebu in the '80s.

Lacson said he knew Lim in the 1970s when the businessman was abducted. He said he was part of an operation that rescued Lim.

But Lim, he said, was later arrested by his team in Task Force Habagat for possession of 2 kilos of *shabu* in 1993 or 1994.

Ong later came to visit Lim who was detained at task force headquarters, said Lacson. He claimed it was the first time that he met Ong.

Ong, for her part, said if Acop insists that Lim is a drug lord, that will only implicate Lacson because it was the senator who introduced her to a certain Alfred Lim.

According to her, the senator now has to explain his alleged friendship with a suspected drug lord. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Ang-See: We're neither pro- nor anti-Lacson

(From page A1)

notorious Chinese triad.

Ong said the tape, which was recovered from a safe house in Baguio where the victims were kept, had been turned over by Lacson to Ang-See.

Ang-See yesterday admitted receiving the videotape from PAOCTF agent Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, who brought the tape to the CAAC office in Intramuros "a few days" after the raid in Baguio last year.

Aquino had sought the CAAC's help in translating the conversations between the four persons in the video, who were speaking in Mandarin and Hokkien.

Ang-See said that "since it was the CAAC's responsibility to extend assistance to law enforcement agencies, the tape was translated and transcribed."

Not to Acop

The videotape was delivered to Aquino's office, and not to Acop as claimed by Ong. It was also the last time she had seen the tape, Ang-See said.

She said she later met with the Chinese Embassy's First Secretary Zhuang Yuan Yuan and furnished the embassy a copy of the transcript because she was "bothered by the content" of the videotape.

"That ended . . . CAAC's involvement with the videotape. Nothing further was heard about the matter until Rosebud's accusatory and tainted revelations," Ang-See said in her statement.

Transcript

The transcript, a copy of which was faxed to the INQUIRER, showed an interrogator, referred to as Ta Ke (or big brother) who was after a certain amount of money that a man, who was handcuffed at the end of the interrogation, had apparently pocketed.

Ta Ke spoke only "good, refined Mandarin," with darin with a southern accent, as well as Hokkien.

". . . From the way the interrogation was conducted, it can be deduced that BB (Ta Ke) is/was some kind of official. In China, the official way of interrogating suspects is to have the suspects kneeling down, as in the video, as the person being interrogated cannot be on the same level with the official doing the interrogation," read a note in the transcript.

The conversation made several references to the Philippines, with Ta Ke telling the suspect at one point that "this is the Philippines, not Hei Lung Jiang."

ANG-SEE

The suspect, who gave incoherent and inconsistent answers to Ta Ke, admitted that he had in his possession P30 million, the same amount of "ill-gotten wealth" that Ta Ke wanted back.

The suspect had apparently spent the money on his family and passport needs, but said Ta Ke could still get some amount from the International Exchange Bank on Quintin Paredes Street in Manila, beside the Ocean Dragon restaurant.

The video ended with an angry Ta Ke ordering a pointman to handcuff the suspect "fat pig style" until he could get his stories right.

Ties 'not extensive'

"We are not supporters of Ping Lacson . . . We are not part and parcel of the PAOCTF," said Chua.

Chua said Ang-See's ties with the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force was "not extensive" and was limited only to extending assistance to the mostly Filipino-Chinese victims of abduction.

He said the CAAC facilitated cooperation between the PAOCTF and the reticent families of the kidnap victims, but was not aware of any other engagements of the supposedly elite group.

"If the PAOCTF were involved in nefarious activities, they would not let her know because she would be the first to cry out. She would denounce these activities," Chua told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Women's groups rally round Mary

(From page A1)

ter Mary John Mananzan, and kept on flowing throughout a speech that followed.

"When my fight started two years ago, nobody was there, nobody believed me. But God always whispered to me that there's always the right time for everything and it gave me the strength," Ong said.

Mananzan saluted Ong, a single parent of two, saying "it is not easy for women, especially for a mother like her, to come out and dare confront not only a powerful senator but also an evil conglomerate of syndicates."

The nun added: "It is not easy to testify against men bosses protected by their badge as law enforcers. It is not easy to reveal the pains of a woman undercover who is ringed by machismo and trapped in a world of drug dealings, kidnappings and murders."

Mananzan urged Ong to "disclose everything else she knows that runs contrary to the interest of the people."

Despite Lacson's efforts to discredit her, Ong expressed confidence that "if only given the chance by the Senate" to discuss things one point at a time, she would be able to explain everything.

She said that it was better left to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus to explain a report that Lacson claims discredits her as a witness against him. ***(See related story on report on Page A1.)***

Legal team

Marie Yuviengco of the Public Interest Law Center said she and at least five others lawyers were forming a women's legal team to give pro bono services to Ong and other "women of courage."

Urduja chair Tetchie Capillan encouraged "other women facing the same predicament to come out, and Urduja and Gabriela are here to help,"

Gabriela secretary general and Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza announced the establishment of Women of Courage Foundation, inspired by the examples of Ong and the impeachment trial women witnesses.

Maza said the foundation hopes to honor and recognize the same kind of women and to encourage more to stand up and fight in support of "just and moral" struggles.

Nanay Pillar Villafuerte, chair of Ahon Pinoy, a confederation of community-based mothers' clubs, urged other mothers to lend support to the crusade against drug trafficking.

"I know how Rosebud feels because I, too, have fallen victim to that menace. It ruined the life of my two sons and so, I am calling on all mothers to support this fight for the sake of our children's future," she said.

Hoping

Ong said her motivation in testifying against Lacson was to expose the truth.

"Why am I doing this? What do I gain after all of these things come out? Nothing, in fact it already shows there is no selfishness in what I'm doing," she said.

"I don't want the country to be filled with rapists and drug addicts," she added.

"I'm so touched by your support. To all the mothers, I hope that in your children's time, there will no longer be crimes, kidnapping, murders," she said.

Gabriela cited statistics indicating that, on the average, eight women are raped daily. Most of the perpetrators of heinous crimes have been found to be under the influence of illegal drugs, the group said.

Gov't men linked to drugs face stiff sanctions

(From page A1)

"We would be mobilizing the anti-crime commission and it has set up a task force specifically for the drug problem," Tiglao said.

His announcement came after Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop said at a Senate hearing that Chinese drug syndicates had penetrated the Bureau of Immigration, the courts, the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the transportation department.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is challenging Acop, former head of the PNP's Narcotics Group, to substantiate his allegation that members of the judiciary have links to the Hong Kong drug triad.

Perez dared Acop to name names and file appropriate charges in court.

"Shotgun allegations are nonsense. It is important that he should give specific (details). If he could point to someone who has connections with the drug syndicate, he should inform me. He should file charges and I'll see to it that that person gets punished," the justice secretary said.

Perez said Acop could also initiate criminal proceedings with the Department of Justice (DOJ) against the state prosecutors he was referring to.

"There are many (employees) here at the DOJ. Who is he referring to? And what is the link to the drug syndicate or to the Hong Kong drug triad?" he said.

Perez said it was impossible for his office to investigate DOJ officials without specific names. "Maybe he is just mad at the DOJ and the NBI because he was charged," he added.

Acop, along with Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former PNP chief, and several others, have been charged with the DOJ and the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly ordering the killing of several Chinese-Filipino businessmen who had been kidnapped allegedly by Lacson's men.

Asked if there would be a reshuffle in the agencies allegedly infiltrated by the triad, Tiglao said the PAGC should conduct an investigation first.

He said suspending a government employee on mere suspicion of having ties to a drug syndicate was legal.

"The advantage in our system is that there is an anti-graft commission which has powers to suspend any civil servant even on mere suspicion," Tiglao said.

"Under our civil service laws, if a superior loses confidence in a public servant, he can be suspended immediately,' he said. "It's a serious charge, a group of government agencies being infiltrated (by the triads)."

Tiglao noted that the Senate hearings on Lacon's alleged involvement in money laundering, drug trafficking, smuggling, kidnap for ransom and summary execution were enlightening the people on the threats posed by narco-politics.

"My personal observation is that before these hearings, we were not even aware of the triad. Even Acop, who is critical of Mary Ong, is now saying that the triad has infiltrated certain government organizations," Tiglao said.

"Never has there been such a public awareness now of the drug problem," he added.

LACSON'S Senate office wears its heart up front. JOAN BONDOC

WE ♥ PING
YES ✓ TO PING

Battle rages . . .

(From page A1)

"I don't think (Lacson) can surmount all the issues thrown against him. This affects the Senate and the organization that he represents," said Deinla, former police director for Central Visayas.

"It would be prudent for him to resign now rather than wait for street protests," Deinla added.

An alliance of groups launched a movement on Sept. 4 seeking Lacson's resignation or expulsion from the Senate.

The alliance has come up with two types of stickers featuring an exclamation point, with the letters LR (Lacson resign) on one and EL (Expel Lacson) on the other.

But Lacson's supporters have waded into the fray with their own stickers.

Two types of stickers reached Lacson's office yesterday—one saying "Yes to Ping," and the other, "We love Ping."

Jane Rivero, Lacson's media relations officer, said an unnamed supporter had sent 1,000 of these stickers to the senator's office.

In a show of support for their boss, Lacson's staff distributed the stickers to other Senate offices and even stuck these on their clothes.

Rivero said that since the start of the Senate inquiry on Lacson's alleged involvement in high crimes, five to six letters of support had been arriving daily at the senator's office.

"Most of the letter writers said they still believe in Senator Lacson and that they were not affected by the controversy," she said.

The hearings on the issue will resume after the Senate break on Sept. 7-23.

Due process

In an interview over radio station dyLA, Lacson said the call for his resignation or expulsion had no basis because the allegations against him had yet to be substantiated.

He admitted having been affected by the call aired by groups including the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (or Forces), but said they did not understand the entire issue.

He said that while he respected the right of the retired generals to express their views, they should also consider his right to due process.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon dismissed the call for Lacson's expulsion from the chamber.

Drilon said the Senate committee on ethics could not do anything because Lacson's supposed crimes were committed during his stint as chief of the Philippine National Police.

He also pointed out that no complaint had been filed against Lacson before the ethics committee.

Biazon echoed Drilon's statements, saying that Lacson could be made to undergo expulsion proceedings only if the senators suspended the Senate rules.

He added that Lacson also could not be made to take a leave of absence—as Forces chair Fortunato Abat had earlier urged—unless the senator volunteered to do so.

But the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan called for Lacson's ouster.

Paul Rodriguez, Bayan chair in Central Visayas, said Lacson and his men at the Metropolitan District Command were accused of committing human rights violations in the late 1980s.

Rodriguez said that Lacson and his men were also implicated in the disappearance of labor leader Jimmy Badayos, who remains missing after more than 10 years.

Military role

Biazon said that while he supported the avowed mission of the anti-Lacson movement to fight "narco-politics," it must clearly define what the role of the military should be.

The senator was referring to the "narco-politics summit" held Sept. 4, where retired military officers invoked Article 2, Section 3 of the Constitution which calls upon the AFP to be "the sole protector of the people and state."

This was the same provision that the military invoked when it withdrew support from then President Joseph Estrada in January.

Biazon said the military should not be dragged into the political controversy hounding Lacson.

He said the anti-Lacson movement should "be clear" on what it wanted "the soldiers to do."

He added that if the soldiers invoked that particular constitutional provision, there was a possibility that "they might go beyond their soldiering mandate and become in themselves a danger to the democratic system."

FIRST ASIA INSTITUTE MARKS 1ST YEAR

As Premier Educational Institution in Batangas

First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAI) kicks off a 2-day series of activities to commemorate its first year as a center of learning and research in the CALABARZON area.

First Asia Institute celebrates its brief but eventful life marked by alliances and partnerships with the City of Tanauan local government, civic organizations and the local community. Since it opened its campus to students and the community in June this year, First Asia Institute has quickly become the hub of community events, civic activities, workshops and seminars and local government affairs.

It welcomed the nearly 1,000-strong studentry into its campus in June and has, since, embarked on a vigorous academic regimen for its students, from grade school to college. "It is propitious that First Asia Institute is located at the heart of the country's 'cradle of heroes,'" observed FAI President, Saturnino Belen. "Here at First Asia Institute, we also hope to become a cradle for the new generation of heroes and champions of the country."

"First Asia Institute envisions itself as an active partner of the community and the local government in nation-building. By putting its students through an educational process that instills the importance of values even in the information and computer technology (ICT) environment, it hopes to produce highly competent graduates who can discern what is right and wrong," Belen added.

The campus is located within the city's business and commercial district and is accessible from the Laurel highway and a few minutes from the newly-opened Star expressway.

First Asia Institute boasts of world-class amenities designed to make the entire campus conducive to learning and interaction among students and teachers. It's air-conditioned classrooms are equipped with audiovisual equipment and linked via fiber-optic cables to its high performance computer network.

"In order for our graduates to be able to compete and excel in their chosen fields or careers, we need to be able to take them through their paces in a school environment that offers quality facilities, leading-edge technologies and well-trained teachers," said FAI School Director Samuel J. Yap. "First Asia Institute has well-equipped science, computer and speech laboratories, well-stocked libraries and a sprawling campus which the students can make full use of in their academic, sports and extra-curricular activities."

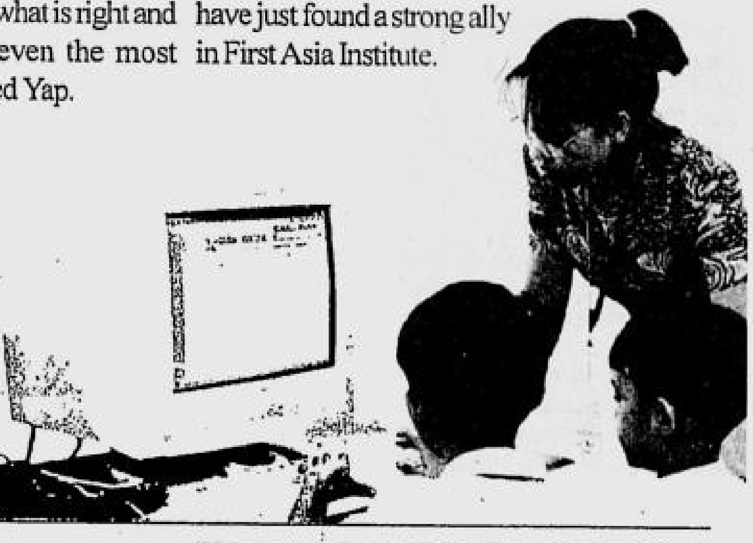
Teacher training is one of First Asia Institute's major underpinnings. The Seneca Teacher Training Program provides FAI teachers an opportunity to assimilate and integrate the values-oriented paradigm that the school espouses into their own teaching style and approach.

"FAI's principle of integrating values education with technology is a rather novel and noble approach. We are trying to remove the dichotomy between the two areas of learning because, in reality, there is, indeed, only one reality. The ability to discern what is right and what is wrong applies to even the most innovative technology," added Yap.

Belen also noted the school's potential to become a potent influence in the community's future directions. "We envision First Asia Institute to become a center of academic and research excellence through a strong adherence to scientific discipline and methodologies." First Asia Institute is establishing a Center for Asean and International Studies in the campus, whose mandate is to instill the Asean spirit in the studentry through the curriculum and special events, as well as to document and provide extensive analysis on the socio-political, economic, technological and cultural characteristics of Asean as a region in the context of the larger international community.

First Asia Institute also seeks to develop close ties with its community. In its community outreach program, a collaboration between City Hall, the local residents and student organizations is expected to spearhead environmental, social and educational programs for the general community.

Included in the 2-day Foundation Day program is a consultative meeting with heads of schools of nearby towns. During this dialogue, FAI officials hope to be able to identify areas where the school may be able to partner with other schools and communities and take advantage of FAI's unique competencies. "It is First Asia's way of truly becoming a part of the community," added Yap. "After all, nation-building is not just about teaching our kids; it is also teaching ourselves." In the City of Tanauan, the community may have just found a strong ally in First Asia Institute.



Messages

Tatak ng mga tunay na Tanaueño ang pagiging masikhay sa pag-aaral at pagbibigay nang malaking halaga sa edukasyon. Sa mga tulad ni Gat Apolinario Mabini, hindi hadlang sa kanila ang kasalatan sa buhay para magsumikap na makapag-aral.

Kaya naman ibayong galak namin sa Lungsod ng Tanauan itinayo ang First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAITH). Dahil dito, hindi na kailangan pang lumayo ng mga Tanaueño para makapag-aral at makakuha ng edukasyong de-kalidad.

Isa ring malaking tulong ang eskwelahan upang mamulat ang mga tao sa pangangailangang umangkop sa mabilis na pagbabago ng panahon. Ang mga modernong kasangkapan at pasilidad sampu ng mauunlad sa sistema ng pagtuturo at pagpapatakbo ng eskwelahan ang mga buhay na halimbawang dapat kapulutan ang aral ng iba pang mga institusyon.

Tunay na dapat ipagmalaki at purihin ang FAITH sa kanyang natatanging kontribusyon sa pag-unlad ng Lungsod ng Tanauan. Sana'y sundan ng iba pang mga kompanya at institusyon ang inyong pagtitiwala sa aming lungsod.

Sa ngalan ng mga mamamayan ng Tanauan, malugod ko kayong binabati sa inyong unang taong anibersaryo at umasa kayo na patuloy na makikiisa ang Pamahalaang Lungsod sa inyo.

Mabuhay kayo!

Alfredo Corona
Mayor
City of Tanauan

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First Asia Institute is envisioned to provide a learning environment that allows the student to explore and put in a moral context his experiences of the world around him. The ability to see the world from a critical perspective and the mindset that he can make a difference in this world is what sets a First Asia student or graduate from the rest.

With the rest of the world heading full steam towards greater efficiency and productivity, First Asia Institute is committed to doing its share by providing its students with the best education possible so that they will be able to excel in their chosen fields of endeavor.

To all who made First Asia Institute a reality, my grateful thanks. The work and challenge is still ahead of us.

Saturnino G. Belen Jr.
President
First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities

Mayor Declares Education No. 1 Priority

"My number one priority is education." So said Alfredo Corona, the City of Tanauan's first mayor. "Educating the city government's workforce is not enough. I want to turn Tanauan into the center of education of Region IV."

Citing First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities (FAI), he noted how "these schools will help [me] in fulfilling [this priority]." He added, "I want the industries that have relocated here and in the nearby provinces to employ our people. We must not miss this opportunity to be world class and [to] be ready for the global economy."

In his inaugural speech, Mayor Corona also outlined his other plans for the new city. A tough anti-drug policy coupled with a strong emphasis on sports is expected to bolster his "no compromise policy" against drugs.

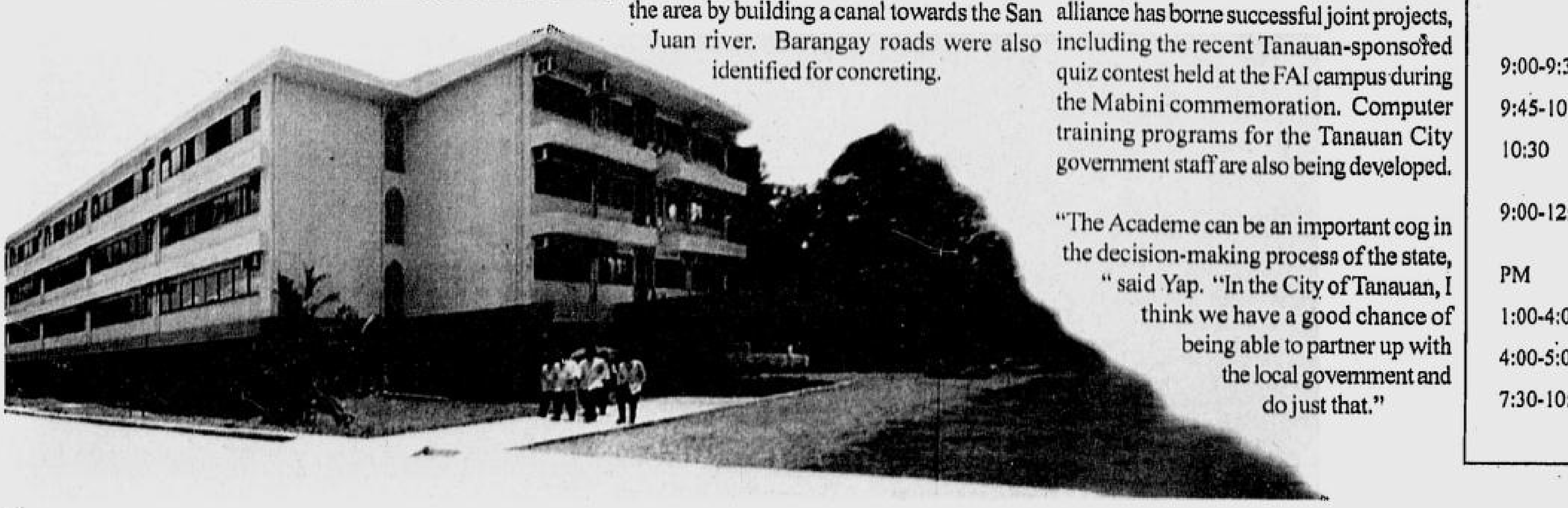
He also laid out a plan to address flooding in the area by building a canal towards the San Juan river. Barangay roads were also identified for concreting.

Capitalizing on the natural and man-made attractions already present in the area, Mayor Corona announced the proposal for an Asean village on the shores of Taal Lake. "This will not only attract foreigners to Tanauan, but will also enable us to create partnerships with Asean countries," he said. The Asean village concept is part of a First Asia Institute initiative which also includes a Center for Asean and International Studies in its campus.

Along these lines, First Asia Institute has offered its facilities and its academic faculty to help the city government in research and project development. "First Asia can be a local think-tank facility supporting local government initiatives in the the economic, environmental and educational sectors," said Samuel J. Yap, First Asia Institute Director.

Already, this Tanauan-First Asia Institute alliance has borne successful joint projects, including the recent Tanauan-sponsored quiz contest held at the FAI campus during the Mabini commemoration. Computer training programs for the Tanauan City government staff are also being developed.

"The Academe can be an important cog in the decision-making process of the state," said Yap. "In the City of Tanauan, I think we have a good chance of being able to partner up with the local government and do just that."



Foundation Day Program of Activities

Friday, September 7, 2001

AM	
6:30-7:30	Motorcade
8:00-8:30	Opening of Exhibits ◆ ASEAN countries ◆ FAI's Infrastructure and System ◆ Educational System and Materials
8:30-9:00	Air Show
9:30-12:00	RotaQuiz
PM	
1:00-4:00	Oratorical/Extemporaneous Speaking Competition
4:00-5:00	Jollibee Show and Games
6:00-9:00	Variety Show

Saturday, September 8, 2001

AM	
8:00-9:00	Holy Mass (officiated by H.E. Gaudencio B. Rosales, DD, Archbishop of Lipa)
9:00-9:30	Official Ceremonies
9:45-10:30	Reception
10:30	Conference with the Education Sector
9:00-12:00	Batangas Provincial School Board Scholars Association
PM	
1:00-4:00	Field Demonstrations
4:00-5:00	Air Show
7:30-10:00	Faculty/Staff and Parents Night
~~~

Tams nip Falcons; Archers up anew

GAMES TOMORROW *(Ateneo Gym)*
2 p.m.—ADU vs DLSU (srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (srs)

By June Navarro

FAR Eastern University posted a 73-72 squeaker over winless Adamson University yesterday in UAAP men's basketball at the Ateneo Gym.

In picking up their sixth win in 12 games, the Tamaraws halted a five-game skid which started over a month ago and kept their chances on a Final Four tour of duty alive.

De La Salle University edged University of Santo Tomas, 64-62, later in the night to regain the solo lead at 10-2.

Getting the breaks at the freethrow line, the Green Archers withstood a final minute rally by the Tigers, who battled back from 14 points down in the payoff period.

Mark Cardona and Mike Cortez sank six of the Archers' 10 attempts at the stripe to put the Tigers' Final Four bid in a bind due to a 5-7 record.

The Tamaraws should sweep their remaining assignments—against UST and National University, respectively—in order to advance into the next phase.

Already out of contention long before the start of the second round, the Falcons absorbed their 12th straight debacle.

A blistering windup though could have turned the Falcons' misfortunes around as Mike Abadia and Ramil Tagupa authored an uprising that kept them within striking distance, 72-69, barely a minute left.

Scores:

FEU 73—Castro 13, Zablan 12, Avenido 9, Jones 9, Roldan 7, Miranda 6, Isip 6, Dela Rosa 5, Tolentino 4, Catli 2, Chavez 0.

ADAMSON 72—Catabay 17, Abadia 14, Tagupa 9, Mamaclay 8, Rolan 8, Mangulabnan 7, Hate 4, Ferrer 3, Cinco 2, Venal 0, Gandarosa 0, Yong 0.

Quarters: 13-18, 28-32, 52-48, 73-72

Hapee wants to join pro league

IF WELCOAT lost its interest in joining the professional ranks, Hapee Toothpaste seemed serious in pushing its plans to join the Philippine Basketball Association.

Lamolyan Corp. president and chief executive officer Cecilio K. Pedro yesterday sent a letter of inquiry to PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino as to the requirements and other details in applying for membership in Asia's best professional league.

"We've been looking to that possibility for the last five years. After gaining experience in the PBL and knowing the other ins and outs of basketball, I believe we're ready to take a plunge into a bigger challenge—and that is the PBA," said Pedro who might personally see Bernardino within the month as to the requirements for application.

"We want to take this venture systematically. We need to know the requirements first, and have them ready as we submit our formal intention for PBA membership," added Pedro.

Lamolyan Corp. has been in the mainstream of Philippine basketball for the past seven years using its brands Hapee Toothpaste and Dazz Dishwashing Paste in the Philippine Basketball League.

It also achieved its own share of success. Then mentored by coach Junel Bacuili, Hapee Toothpaste captured the 1996 PBL Reinforced Conference and also the runner-up finish in the 2nd PBL Juniors tournament in 1999.

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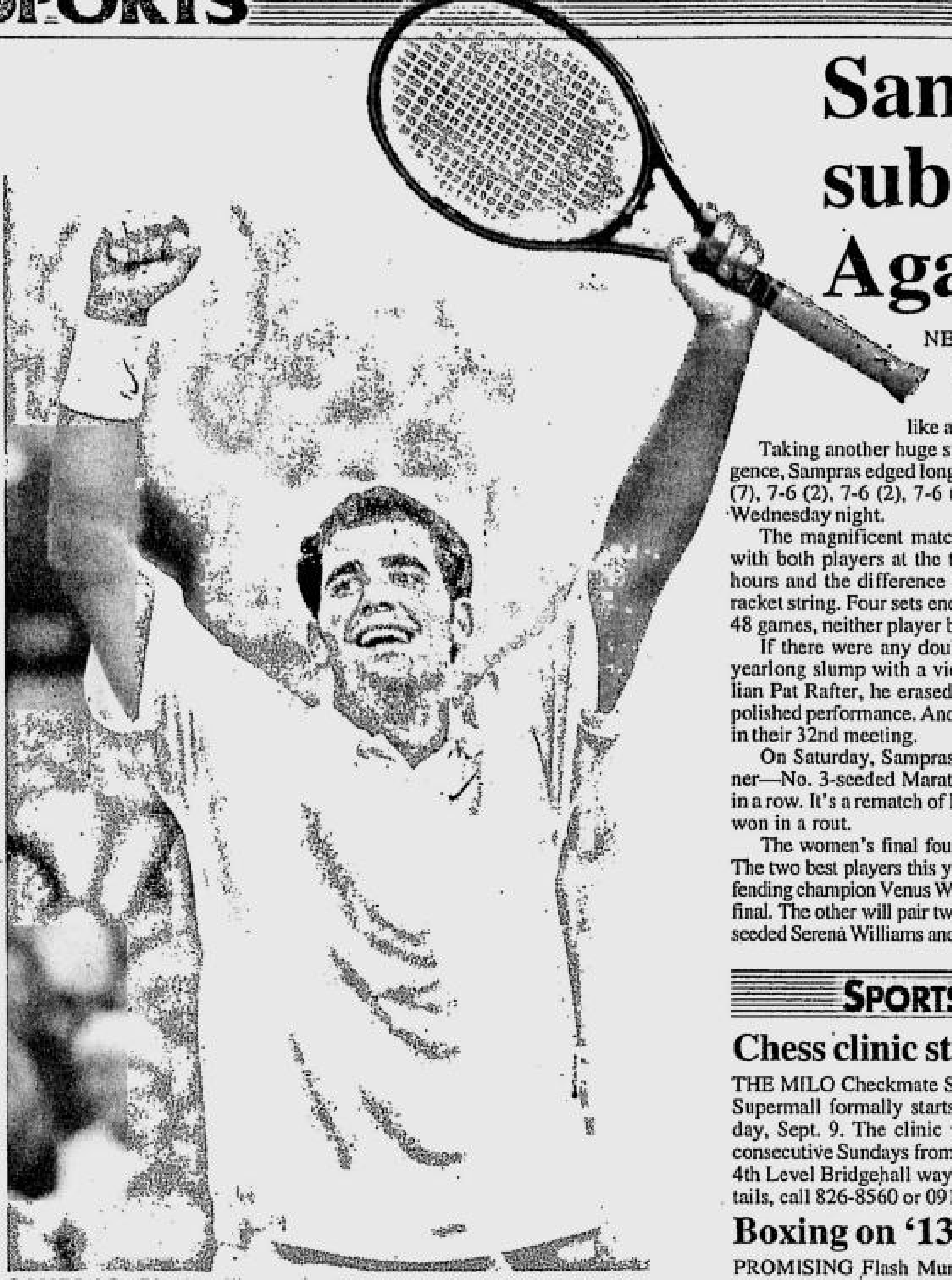

SAMPRAS: Playing like a champ. AP

Baguio entry tops SVI saloon racing

THE 2001 SVI saloon racing season officially ended the series-capping rounds held last Sunday at the Subic International Speedway.

Baguio-based racing sensation Carlos Anton took home his second consecutive championship in the Production Championship while the phenomenal movie star-turned race driver Monching Gutierrez grabbed the title in the SVI Challenge Cup series.

The prolific racing team got backing from zed, Gulf Oil and MP Turbo.

The zed-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo Racing Team likewise drew ample support from BLTBCO, Francisco Motors Corp., Gomaking Trading, Abante Newspaper, Yehey.com, AER Engine Rebuilders/ATI Diesel, Rota Wheels and Bavarian Motor Works.

Anton chalked up two dramatic first place finishes in the final rounds of the Production races, which gave him an aggregate score of 110 points.

Anton dominated the class the whole year and left Carlo Pastor and Miko David to fight for second and third, respectively.

Gutierrez ended his season with 104 points, a feat which he accomplished by winning nine of the 14 legs and which gave him a resounding 40-point margin over SVI Challenge Cup runner-up Tom Pastor.

Sampras subdues Agassi

NEW YORK—Full house. Marquee matchup. US Open.

And Pete Sampras played like a champ.

Taking another huge step in his remarkable resurgence, Sampras edged longtime rival Andre Agassi 6-7 (7), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (5) in a quarterfinal thriller Wednesday night.

The magnificent match lived up to expectations, with both players at the top of their game for 3-1/2 hours and the difference between them thinner than racket string. Four sets ended with four tiebreakers. In 48 games, neither player broke serve.

If there were any doubts that Sampras shook his yearlong slump with a victory Monday over Australian Pat Rafter, he erased them with another poised, polished performance. And Agassi was nearly his equal in their 32nd meeting.

On Saturday, Sampras plays a former Open winner—No. 3-seeded Marat Safin—for the third round in a row. It's a rematch of last year's final, which Safin won in a rout.

The women's final four Friday sports a stellar cast. The two best players this year, Jennifer Capriati and defending champion Venus Williams, will meet in one semifinal. The other will pair two former champions, No. 10-seeded Serena Williams and No. 1 Martina Hingis. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Chess clinic starts Sunday

THE MILO Checkmate Sunday clinic at the Festival Supermall formally starts its chess lectures on Sunday, Sept. 9. The clinic will be conducted in seven consecutive Sundays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the mall's 4th Level Bridgehall way near Jollibee. For more details, call 826-8560 or 0919-331-02-06.

Boxing on '13' tonight

PROMISING Flash Murillo, the former Philippine flyweight champion, battles tough Japanese slugger Nobuhiro Uema in a major fight on Murillo's comeback trail in a special edition of the popular boxing show "Blow by Blow" to be telecast at 7:30 p.m. today over IBC 13.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Maximo 2. Roman Dance 3. Banahaw Blues 4. Iron Fist 5. Ariana's Pride
Race 2—1. Vice on Ice 2. Southern Gent 3. Kamahalan 4. Old Time Nevada
Race 3—1. Green Leaves 2. Tayp Ko Yan 3. Baptism of Fire 4. Fortune Maker
Race 4—1. Thunder Dragon 2. Lucky Fil 3. Eyewitness 4. Centennial 5. Demolition Jack
Race 5—1. Annihilator 2. Time Street 3. Gifted Galloper 4. War General
Race 6—1. Jazz Queen 2. Burning Light 3. Red Thunder 4. Native Talent 5. T Square
Race 7—1. Prestige 2. The Serpent 3. Star of Arabia 4. Passionately 5. Poblacion 6. Magic Fingers
Race 8—1. Gutmoore 2. Ilocandia Slew 3. Hammerhead 4. Hostile Witness 5. Gold Pyramid
Race 9—1. Diligence 2. Champs Elysees 3. Standout 4. Strong Bird 5. Prince Armstrong 6. Ray Moon

4-stag final at Roligon today

TWO foreign entries qualified for today's 4-stag championship round of the BL Showdown 5-Stag National Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

JM Intruder of Jun Marasigan from Saipan and Black Tabu of Mañolo Gamboa, a *balikbayan* from Kentucky, with 2-1/2 and two points, respectively, will fight other stags in exciting encounters of feathered gladiators.

Two other entries from Hawaii—Antonio Mirafuentes and Elvie Mirafuentes—figured prominently in the first fight but lost steam in the second and third rounds of the second elimination.

Other entries with 3 points each are Giffill by Walter Villanueva of Batangas, Casumanggay by Jomari Moises and Lawrence Sarmiento of Isabela, Negros Occidental; and Marilao Anniversary by Mayor Viceo of Marilao and Boy Lechon of Batangas.

Those with 2-1/2 points also are Geron 9-10-12 by Gerry Fevidal of Quezon City and Stagfest sa Pasay Oct. 12-19 by Eric dela Rosa of Antipolo.

Dennis del Rosario's 3 Brothers and Voltaire Fronda's Oh My Goodness got 2 points each.

Promoter Danny Ty said that submission of weights must be a day before the derby.

Other 5-stag derbies scheduled at Roligon are: Sept. 17-ASF by Allan and Company, Sept. 19-JRS Spectrum by Jun Sevilla, Sept. 26-BMJ by Boy Gamilla, Oct. 1-Blue Blade by Sonny Lagon and Oct. 5-Joshua by Peping Suarez and lawyer Joey Mendoza.

Abet, Alvin beat field

TWO-TIME national champion Abet Alon-Alon and 1997 Asian Cup Masters series Champion Alvin Alindogan of team Laguna clinched gold medals in the recent Macau International Triathlon.

Alon-Alon, now a member of the national triathlon pool coaching staff, clocked 2 hours, 14 minutes and 21 seconds over tough 750-meter swim, 40 kilometer bike and 10-km run course in ruling the 30-39 years age group.

Alindogan, age-group gold medalist in the 2001 Asian triathlon championship, checked in first 2:22:18 in the 40-49 years category of the 10 nation competition where 158 triathletes tested their mettle.

Tom Carrasco, president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, said, "our focusing this year on the age groupers has been paying dividends."

10 YEARS AGO

FRANKIE Miñoza shot an even-par 72 to post a two-stroke lead over Roger Antonio in the penultimate round of the P240,000 Del Monte Open golf championship in Bukidnon. Miñoza tallied a seven-under 209 total against Antonio's 211.

Ylanan legacy a tough act to follow

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

A MAN of erudition and fervor, the late Dr. Regino Ylanan whose birthday falls today was the quintessential athlete and sportsman of a different era.

Born on Sept. 7, 1889 in Bogo, Cebu, Ylanan built an honest reputation for returning his excess dollar allowance after every trip abroad during his 33-year stint as secretary-treasurer of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, forerunner of the Philippine Olympic Committee. It was also during his incumbency that the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was completed in 1936.

A surgeon by profession and a physical educator by avocation, Ylanan graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine in 1918 and obtained a degree of Bachelor of Physical Education from the famous Springfield College in Massachusetts in 1920. He was much older than his classmates at Springfield College because he was already a practicing doctor then, to be exact, an assistant in surgery at the Philippine General Hospital, when he took up the PE course.

In a nutshell are the other highlights of Dr. Ylanan's career:

As an exemplary sports official, Ylanan was the track and field coach of the lone Filipino entry, 100- and 200-meter runner David Nepomuceno, when the Philippines made her Olympic Games debut in Paris in 1924. That same year, he founded and became the first president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which metamorphosed from a school series with little fanfare into the noisiest and most glamorous basketball league in living memory.

In the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics, Ylanan was the medical officer of the Philippine team led by fabled high jumper Simeon Toribio and swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso who won the country's first Olympic medal, a bronze. He was also Philippine delegation head at the 1936 Berlin Games where the basketball team, captained by Ambrosio Padilla, placed a magnificent fifth, 400-meter low hurdles champion Miguel White won the bronze and shooter Martin Gison placed third in the 50m smallbore rifle competition with a score of 296x3.

As an athlete, Ylanan launched his storied career as a baseball catcher of the Cebu High School and UP teams, but it was in track and field where he made the biggest impact, emerging as a peerless pentathlon, shot put and discuss throw champion in the inaugural Far Eastern Games in Manila in 1913.

He was named, together with the late Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Florencio Campomanes and Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, as "Sports Leaders of the Millennium" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association during its 1999 PSA Awards Night.

Ylanan died of a heart attack while writing his memoirs in 1963. He was 74.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

TENNIS: US Open 2001 - Men's Quarter Finals/Mixed Doubles Finals at 7 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Women's Singles Semis and Men's Doubles Final at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Air Canada Championship Highlights at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 12 noon (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports
LPGA First Union Betsy King Classic, Third Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
PGA Bell Canadian Open, First Round tomorrow at 5 a.m. on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SEAG BOOSTER

Mike hosts RP bets to dinner

ARROYO

KUALA LUMPUR—The First Gentleman, Mike Arroyo, gives the Philippine campaign in the 21st Southeast Asian Games a boost when he hosts a dinner for officials and athletes today at the Crown Princess hotel here.

It's the first time in memory that a Filipino sportsman of Mr. Arroyo's stature is honoring the athletes before they see action in the sportsfest, which unwraps tomorrow, Saturday.

"This is going to inspire our athletes in their bid to win honor and glory," said RP delegation chief of mission Godofredo Jalasco of the affair. "With no less than the First Gentleman honoring them, the athletes will realize that the whole country is behind them."

More than 300 athletes carry the RP colors, but only those competing in events scheduled here will grace tonight's affair, together with Ambassador Jose Brillantes, Rep. Monico Puentevella, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit, Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos D. Tuason and Presidential son Jose Miguel Arroyo.

The Philippines is entered in 30 events, but eight of these will be played in Penang and Johor Bahru. Wushu, squash, bowling and pencak silat will be held in Penang, while taekwondo, archery, weightlifting and judo will be staged in Johor Bahru.

The other events featuring RP athletes are set here. These are swimming, diving, water polo, athletics, badminton, basketball, billiards and snooker, boxing, cycling, equestrian, fencing, women's football, golf, gymnastics, karate-do, lawn bowls, rowing, sailing, sepak takraw, shooting, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

Mr. Arroyo arrived last night from Manila together with athletes from billiards and snooker, boxing, fencing, rowing, table tennis, badminton, basketball and tennis.

Meanwhile, the flag-raising ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. today at the National Stadium with Jalasco and 20 athletes representing the Philippines.

'Swimmers hungry for medals'

KUALA LUMPUR—Young, lean, mean and hungry for recognition.

This was how head coach Eric Buhain described the compact 8-man Philippine swimming team that will compete in the swimming events of the 21st Southeast Asian Games opening on Sunday at National Aquatic Sports Complex here.

"With an average age of 18, they're quite young and raring to go. They're also very hungry (for medals)," said Buhain, himself a former national athlete and SEA Games swimming champion.

Spearheading the team, Buhain added, are 1999 Brunei SEA Games veterans Juan Carlo Piccio and Lizza Danila.

Piccio and Danila each won a silver medal in Brunei where the Filipino tankers captured a total of three silvers.

The other members of the men's squad are Sydney Olympian Miguel Mendoza, Miguel Molina and Mark Kalaw while the women's team also includes Jenny Guerrero, Lynette Ang and Luica Dacanay.

In Sydney Olympian Danila, who has been training at the Victoria Institute of Sports in Brisbane, Australia, for the last two years, Buhain said, the country has its brightest hope in capturing a gold medal.

"Lizza timed 1:03 in the 100 back at a short course (25 meters) and the best in this Games over the regular 50-meter pool is 1:05.7. So on the course, she could swim around 1:04 which gives us a strong chance for the gold," he said.

DANILA: Brightest hope for a gold medal. FILE PHOTO

Gold rush expected from wushu

PENANG—"We'll go for the gold (in the 21st Southeast Asian Games)."

This is the promise of the Filipino wushu athletes who arrived here from Manila late Wednesday night together with assistant chef de mission Julian Camacho and team manager Francis Chua.

"We have a well-trained team which can deliver medals for the country," said Camacho, who is also president of the Wushu Federation of the Philippines.

"We are optimistic because wushu has been a rich source of gold medals for us in the SEA Games. On top of that, we had good preparation," added Chan, who is also vice president of the Asian Wushu Federation.

The WFP and Philippine Sports Commission shared the expenses for the athletes' two-month training in China under the supervision of multitled former national bet Samson Co and Chinese coaches Xia Bo Hua, Qui Jian Hua and Yu Zhi Bo.

"Our athletes know they will be up against tough opposition, especially those from Vietnam. But they are ready," said Co, who accounted for two of 10 gold medals that gave the Philippines the overall wushu title in the 1991 Manila SEAG.

World championship veterans Mark Robert Rosales and Willy Wang will spearhead the Filipinos' bid to equal their six-gold showing in the 1993 and 1997 SEAG in Singapore and Jakarta, respectively.

The Vietnamese, winners of five golds in the Jakarta Games, will field a 16-man team led by 1999 Hong Kong world championship medalists Nguyen Thi Thuonglan, Dan Thanh Xuan, Bguyen Thi Thuy and Tran Thong Tuan.

Pioneer Games insurer

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has renewed its appointment of Pioneer Insurance as the official insurer of national athletes for the fourth year in a row.

Under this agreement, Pioneer Insurance provides free year-round Personal Accident coverage to all national athletes, coaches, trainers and their assistants with an aggregate limit of P15 million.

Officials also are included in the coverage when there are official sporting events.

With the renewal of the agreement, all 502 delegates to the Southeast Asian Games slated Sept. 8 to 17 in Kuala Lumpur will benefit from this insurance coverage.

The contract for the appointment was signed by Anthony M. Gonzalez and Ernesto O. Chan of Pioneer, POC President Celso Dayrit and POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros.

Rosario spearheads swimfest

ASIAN Games swimming gold medalist Ral Rosario has partnered with Chet de Guia of Pediatrica to stage the Ceelin 2001 Swim Festival on Oct. 6 at the International School in Bel-Air, Makati.

"This is the first time we are involving ourselves in sports and is in response to the call for the private sector to help Philippine sports," said De Guia. "We are starting with swimming but we will eventually cover other sports in our long-range sports promotion program for Ceelin."

The one-day event is expected to attract more than 300 12-and-under swimmers belonging to different swimming clubs not only in Metro Manila but also from as far as Visayas and Mindanao.

According to Rosario, the secretary general of the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association (Pasa), the event hopes to discover new talents in swimming.

"We certainly welcome the entry of Ceelin in swimming as we need all the support we need in order to develop the sport in the country," said Rosario.

He said teams from Davao, Cebu, Bacolod, Bicol, Batangas, Cavite and Laguna are expected to participate.

During the event, there will also be a water treasure hunt where the participants will collect as many as Ceelin floating balls as they can, a kayak relay race, and a lifesavers' run.

For the regular competitive events, the swimmers will be divided into age groups 11 to 12, 9 to 10, 7 to 8 and 5-and-under with medals and ribbons at stake to the top finishers who will receive Unilab and Ceelin gift packs.

Registration fee is only P20 per event with no limit to the number of events a swimmer may join. Registration deadline is on Sept. 17. For more details, call Ral Rosario at 8991897.

Lingayos score in Calatagan fishfest

BERT Lingayo of the Land Registration Authority revived his six-year annual quest for a third Angler of the Year (AOY) crown as he and his son Abu won the championship of the recent Atlanta Industries light tackle fishing tournament.

Their winning catch was a 6.54 kg golden trevally, hooked just 10 minutes before check-in time of the two-day fishfest in Calatagan, Batangas.

Robert Chan, last year's champion and Atlanta Industries president, placed second in this second of six light tackle events in the 12-leg AOY race.

The Lingayos scored 18.22 kg on 8 fish and Chan 15.86 kg from 12. Danny Olanosa, scoreless on Day 1, weighed in 11.09 kg for third.

Lingayo topped the Light Tackle and Overall AOY scoreboard replacing both Cesar Marcelo and Philippine Game Fishing Foundation (PGFF) president Rey Buencamino, overall Heavy Tackle AOY champion.

Lingayo's heaviest fish, 6.54 kg golden trevally *(Gnathanodon speciosus)* a.k.a. *Garapeche*, is a new national record on the 12-lb line class. Olanosa's 6-kg *Malaguno (Megalaspis cordyla)* is also a potential record.

The A.A.D light tackle fishing tournament, courtesy of international angler Amado A. Dy, is set for Sept. 22-25 at the Lago de Oro Beach Club in Calatagan, Batangas. For details, contact Rose Aberin at 373-0743/373-0248 or visit website: www.pgff.com.ph Email: pgfff@edsamail.com.ph.

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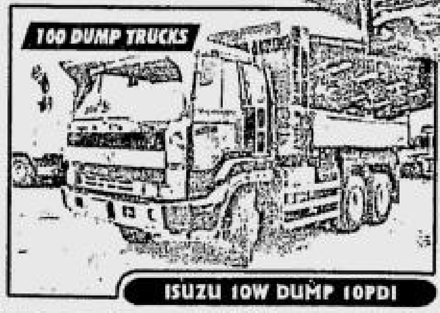

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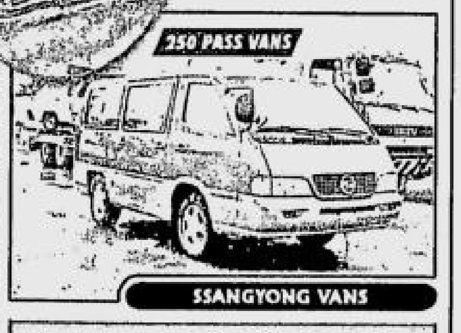

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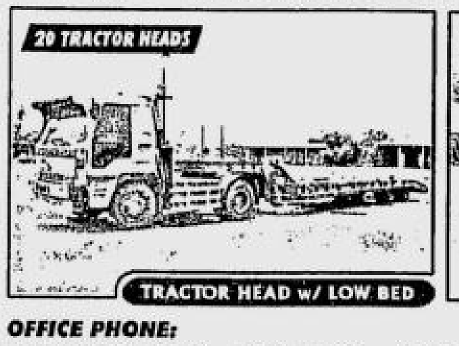
SSANGYONG VANS



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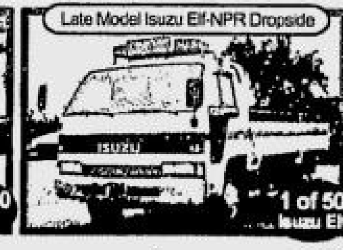

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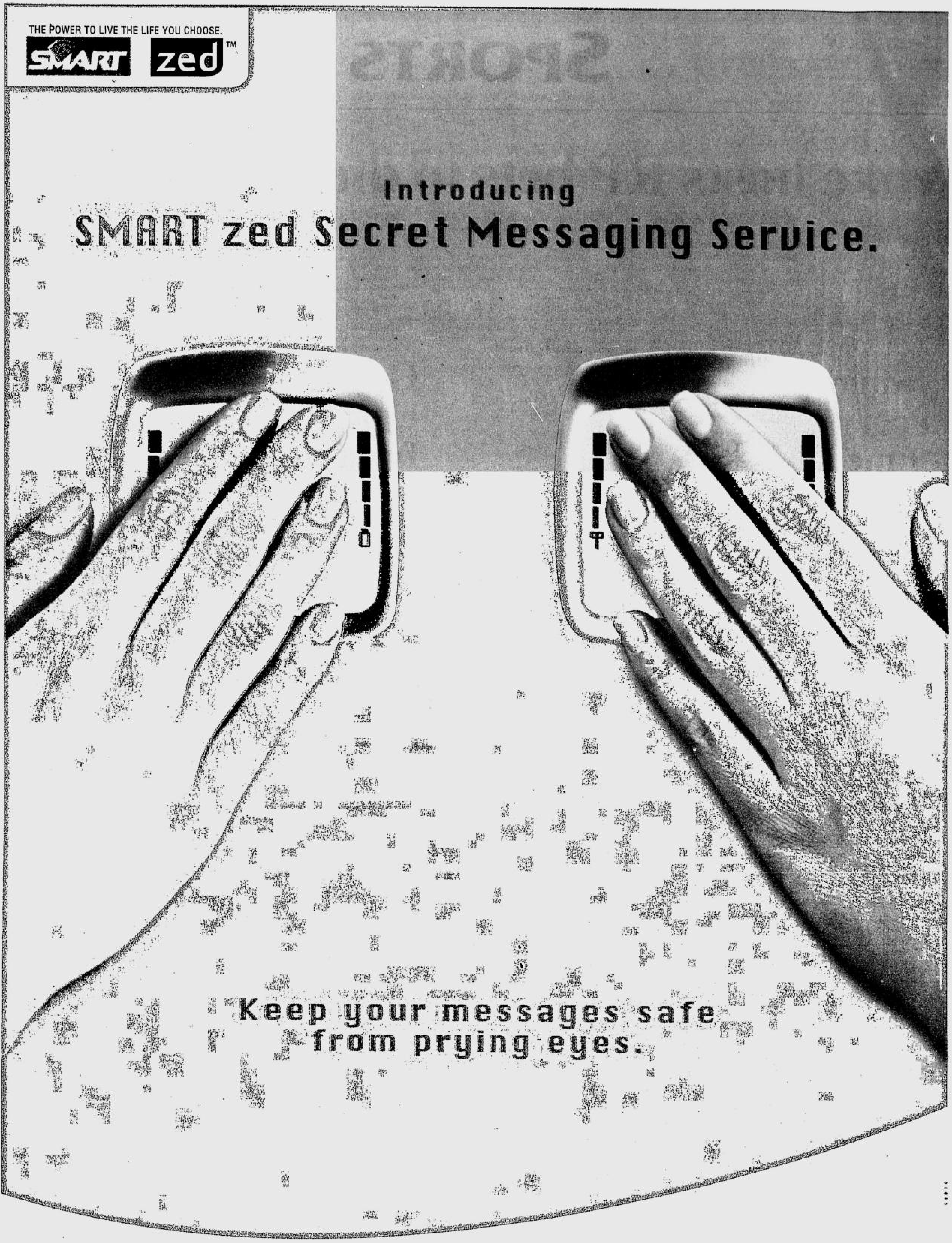

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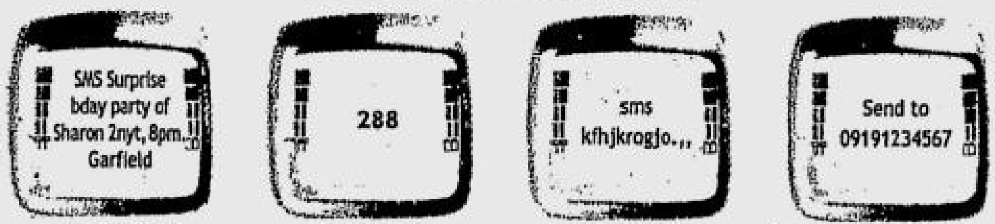

SMS Surprise bday party of Sharon 2nyt, 8pm. Garfield

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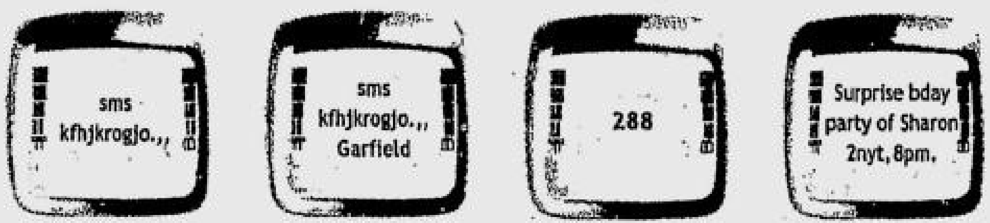

sms kfhjkrogjo.,,

You will receive an encrypted message.

sms kfhjkrogjo.,, Garfield

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Ex.: <encrypted message> Garfield

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METRO

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Man found dead in INC temple

FREDERICK U. Rasos, 19, accidentally shot himself in the head while playing with a gun inside an Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) temple in Quezon City on Wednesday, police said yesterday. Rasos, of Taravilla, Sta. Lucia, Quezon City died due to the single gunshot in his right eye. Chief Insp. Rudy Jaraza, head of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit-homicide section, said the victim was playing with a caliber .357 magnum before he was found dead inside the barracks of the INC temple compound at the corner of Bucaneg Street and San Francisco Drive, Sta. Luccia, Novaliches, Quezon City. *P. Tubeza*

Act now, mayors tell Abalos

BY ALCUIN PAPA

METRO Manila mayors yesterday pressed the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to find a garbage dumpsite and solve the worsening garbage problem in the metropolis.

In a meeting of the Metro Manila Mayors League (MMML) yesterday at the Pasay City Hall, the mayors decided to present to MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos their unified position on major concerns affecting the city.

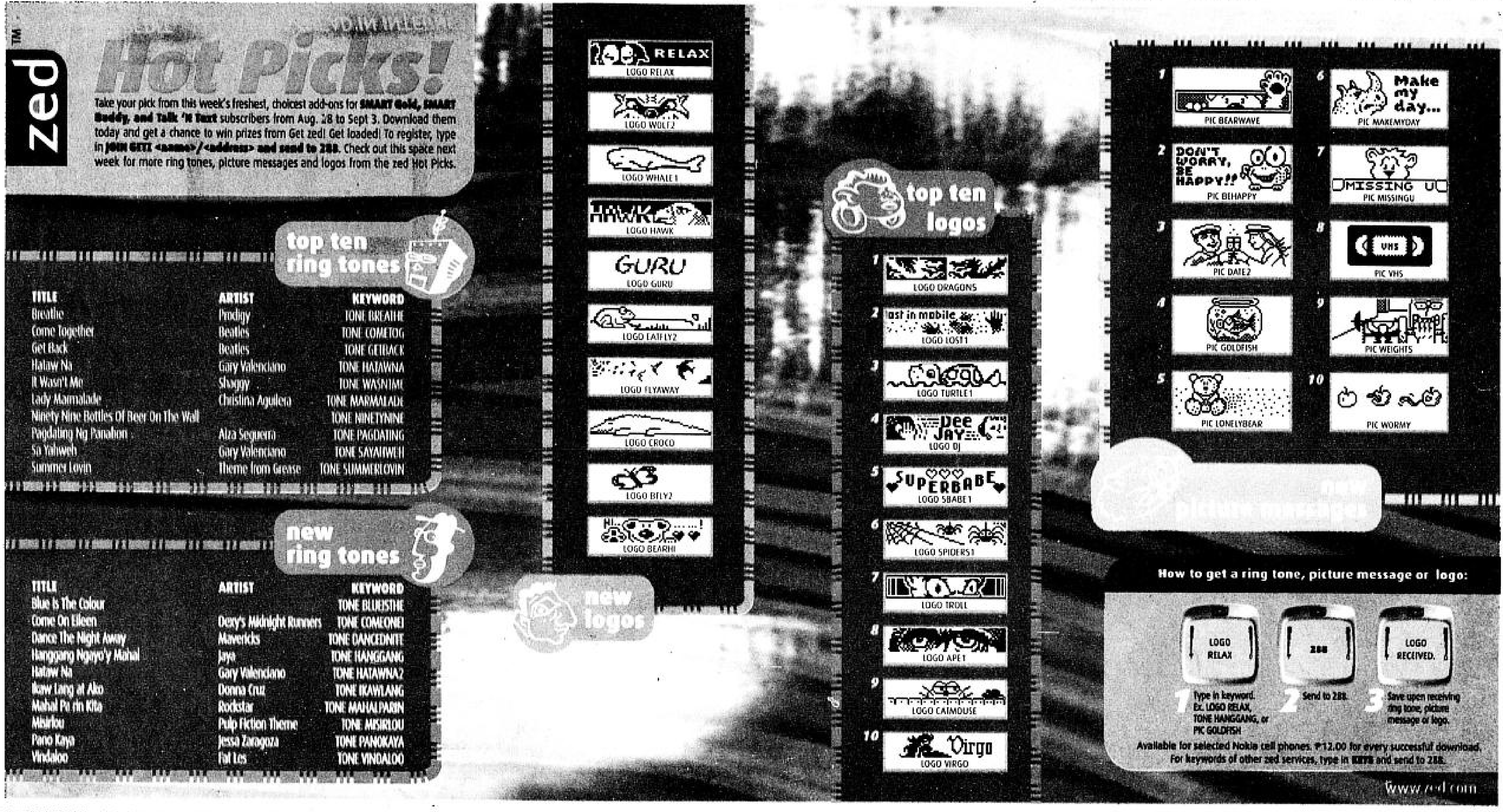
One of these solutions was to find the "best solution to the problem on garbage that include finding a permanent dumpsite and formulating ingenious, creative, practical and effective waste disposal."

In the meeting, MMML spokesperson

ACT NOW/ A29

ABALOS

A town gambles on garbage A28



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Hot Picks!

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top ten ring tones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Breathe	Prodigy	TONE BREATHE
Come Together	Beatles	TONE COMETOG
Get Back	Beatles	TONE GETBACK
Hataw Na	Gary Valenciano	TONE HATAWNA
It Wasn't Me	Shaggy	TONE WASNTME
Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
Ninety Nine Bottles Of Beer On The Wall		TONE NINETYNINE
Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
Sa Yahweh	Gary Valenciano	TONE SAYAHWEH
Summer Lovin	Theme from Grease	TONE SUMMERLOVIN

new ring tones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Blue Is The Colour		TONE BLUEISTHE
Come On Eileen	Dexy's Midnight Runners	TONE COMEONEI
Dance The Night Away	Mavericks	TONE DANCEDNITE
Hanggang Ngayo'y Mahal	Jaya	TONE HANGGANG
Hataw Na	Gary Valenciano	TONE HATAWNA2
Ikaw Lang at Ako	Donna Cruz	TONE IKAWLANG
Mahal Pa rin Kita	Rockstar	TONE MAHALPARIN
Misirlou	Pulp Fiction Theme	TONE MISIRLOU
Pano Kaya	Jessa Zaragoza	TONE PANOKAYA
Vindaloo	Fat Les	TONE VINDALOO

new logos

LOGO RELAX
LOGO WOLF2
LOGO WHALE1
LOGO HAWK
LOGO GURU
LOGO EATFLY2
LOGO FLYAWAY
LOGO CROCO
LOGO BFLY2
LOGO BEARHI

top ten logos

1 LOGO DRAGONS
2 LOGO LOST1
3 LOGO TURTLE1
4 LOGO DJ
5 LOGO SBABE1
6 LOGO SPIDERS1
7 LOGO TROLL
8 LOGO APE1
9 LOGO CATMOUSE
10 LOGO VIRGO

new picture messages

1 PIC BEARWAVE
2 PIC BEHAPPY
3 PIC DATE2
4 PIC GOLDFISH
5 PIC LONELYBEAR
6 PIC MAKEMYDAY
7 PIC MISSINGU
8 PIC VHS
9 PIC WEIGHTS
10 PIC WORMY

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Let's heal now, Malonzo calls upon proclamation

By Christian Esguerra and Gerald Lacuarta

IT'S final: Caloocan City has a mayor.

At exactly 11:30 p.m. Wednesday, Reynaldo Malonzo was proclaimed mayor, along with nine other local candidates at the session hall of the Commission on Elections in Intramuros, Manila.

The proclamation finally settled the leadership row in the city, which raged after mayoral candidate Luis "Baby" Asistio pushed for the declaration of an election failure for alleged massive disenfranchisement of voters in the May election.

After the proclamation, Malonzo called for a "healing process" and extended the hand of reconciliation to Baby Asistio, who lost by 33,798 votes.

"It's time to put an end to all these political bickerings," Malonzo said. "It's time to heal Caloocan and I hope Asistio would work with my administration."

MALONZO

But even as he called for a political cease-fire, Malonzo threatened to have arrested a handful of Asistio supporters who refused to recognize his leadership and marched to the city hall yesterday morning.

The mayor gave the protesters until Monday to clear the area in front of city hall.

Proclaimed with Malonzo were Vice Mayor Tito Varela and nine winning city councilors, namely Susan Punzalan, Isaac Domingo, and Eduardo Rosca in District 1; and Kevin Cunanan, Dick Gonzales, Tino Bagos, Alex Arulo, and Dennis Padilla.

Still unproclaimed are three other winning councilors in District 1 and the winner in the congressional fight in the second district between former councilor Edgar Erice and former mayor Macario Asistio.

Asistio's lawyers had questioned the proceedings of the Caloocan City BOC, saying the proclamation of the winners has no basis because the en banc has a standing resolution for the declaration of the general failure of elections in the city, referring to the resolution drafted by Commissioner Luz Tancangco.

Reynaldo Robles, Asistio's counsel, said the resolution penned by Tancangco was signed by all seven members of the en banc and was promulgated on Aug. 13, while only Benipayo signed the summary of votes in dismissing the petition.

Robles said there is thus no basis for the BOC to reconvene since the Tancangco resolution has not been reversed or replacement by another resolution. He said the summary of votes and certification issued by Benipayo was not authorized under the Comelec rules and violated due process since it did not have a statement of facts and a dispositive portion.

Deputy sacked for leak on Tadao blunder

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWO new witnesses are expected to come forward to boost police theory that Japanese harpist Tadao Hayashi was killed by his masseur in Caloocan last July 22.

But even before police could come face-to-face with the witnesses, the city's deputy police chief was sacked early this week for allegedly leaking to media the so-called police blunders in the investigation.

Supt. Isaias Antonio was relieved 12 days after he revealed to newsmen that the pieces of evidence against primary suspect Alex Ilagan, 31, were weak from the beginning.

"That's the way it is here," Antonio told the INQUIRER. "You get kicked out when you speak your mind."

Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief, however, denied that Antonio was sacked. He said his former deputy was merely transferred to the Northern Police District as chief of the Police Community Relations Department.

Mantele said he and his men are looking for a male and female neighbor of Hayashi to testify that they had seen Ilagan visiting the harpist's house in LD Village, Caloocan sometime before the killing.

The witnesses, he said, would beef up the testimony of primary witness Reynaldo Ortillano and disprove Ilagan's claim that he had not seen Hayashi for two years prior to his death.

Ortillano had earlier claimed that he had seen Ilagan knocking at Hayashi's gate on the night of the killing, leading investigators to tag the masseur as the primary suspect.

METROBRIEFS

Suspect in slay of American freed

SONNY Boy Ramos, the suspect in the killing of retired American teacher Barth Suretsky in Ermita, Manila on Aug. 29, was released from police custody due to insufficient evidence. Chief Insp. Juanito Taluban, head of the WPD homicide section, said investigators did not find any fingerprint belonging to Ramos, a waiter of Aristocrat restaurant, in the Alpha Grand View Hotel room where Suretsky was found dead. The hotel's closed circuit television camera that supposedly recorded the arrival and departure of the guests on the night of Suretsky's murder overlooked the lobby and not the corridor that led to Suretsky's room, Taluban said. Even if several security guards had seen Ramos enter the hotel, the murder could still not be pinned on him, as investigators had not fixed the exact time of Suretsky's death, Taluban said. *Jerome Aning*

Two fall in buy-busts

POLICE arrested Virgilio Villacorta, 46, who claimed to be a brother of a WPD policeman, and Ramil Tiu, 26, in two separate drug buy-busts in Malabon City. Villacorta of Tugatog, Malabon was caught selling at least 20 sachets of shabu on Santolan Street. Tiu of Barangay San Agustin in Malabon was arrested on Adante Street and found with P4,500 worth of shabu contained in nine plastic sachets. *Christian Esguerra*

P.5M lost in 5 minutes

FIVE minutes was all it took for 10 armed men to steal on Wednesday more than P500,000 in payroll money from the Malonzo Trucking Corp. in Pier 2 at the Manila North Harbor. The suspects were all armed with handguns, Uzis and Armalite rifles and were on board an owner-type jeep, a red Toyota Corolla (TLH-258) and two motorcycles, according to SPO George Acosta of the Western Police District Station 2. Police said the suspects poked their weapons at the guards, drivers and other employees. One of the employees had just arrived from a bank with the company's payroll. Security guard Eduardo Rosete, 46, tried to resist the robbers, but was surrounded and divested of his rifle by the suspects, police said. Security guards Porfilio Consultado and Amado Mallari, both 36, were also disarmed. *Jerome Aning*

4 NPA men fall

SUSPECTED members of the New People's Army hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade (NPA-ABB) Benjamin Ducusin, a former member of the Philippine Marine; Angelito Tesalona, 42; Nilo Carranza, 32; and Norberto Glore were arrested on Wednesday in Taytay, Rizal, said Supt. Normandy Carpio, provincial officer of the Rizal Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. Authorities found one M.16 Armalite rifle, six magazines of ammunition for an M-15 rifle, two magazines for a .45 pistol and other ammunition and grenades at Ducusin's house. At Telsona's house, 25 rounds of live ammunition for a .45 pistol, one .38 revolver Smith and Wesson, 28 rounds of live ammunition for .9mm and 14 live ammunition for .38 revolver were found. The operations were conducted at about 5:30 a.m. in at least 10 houses based on search warrants issued by Judge Felix Caballes and Judge Francisco Querubin, both of the Antipolo Regional Trial Court. *Agnes Donato*

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Republic Act 656 (Property Insurance Law) is very clear. On the GSIS, and on no other government agency, rests the sole responsibility to secure all properties of government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations.

The GSIS follows the rule of law. Throughout its 64 years of existence, it has maintained transparency in all its transactions and dealings. The GSIS has faithfully maintained its reputation for getting the best rates and best reinsurance securities to insure government assets.

In fact, the GSIS has introduced a new accreditation policy for insurance and reinsurance firms to ensure that said companies who offer their services have the integrity and capacity to adequately cover the risks involved.

Why then, should Napocor, and Napocor alone, challenge GSIS's legal mandate? You can draw your own conclusions.

Issue 1:

Napocor can hold its own bidding.

Fact:

By law, it is only the GSIS that has the mandate to issue insurance and reinsure all government properties, in order to obtain the best possible terms for the government. The GSIS is mandated to conduct its own public biddings, where all interested parties are invited. Napocor can negotiate with GSIS on insurance rates, but no way should Napocor dictare who the reinsurers should be.

Issue 2:

Napocor wants to have a say on the choice of reinsurers.

Fact:

GSIS has the legal mandate to insure all government assets for an important reason. Allowing any and every government agency to choose reinsurance firms they favor will open the floodgates for backroom deals. The GSIS, as insurer of all government properties, assumes full liability for risks on government assets. When it becomes necessary to avail of services of reinsurance firms, it is the GSIS's sole responsibility to choose reinsurance firms. And it does so under the most competitive terms for reinsurers.

Issue 3:

Napocor claims that in the last five years, it paid a total of $47.6 million in premiums as against only $1.6 million in paid claims received.

Fact:

GSIS records show otherwise. Napocor has received more than $7.5 million in claims from GSIS. A contingent liability amounting to $42 million is currently in various stages of the disbursement process. GSIS cannot facilitate disbursements because Napocor has been remiss in submitting the necessary documents. In other cases, insurance adjusters, who will have to submit their final reports, are still assessing other Napocor claims. The GSIS has receipts to show that Napocor has been fully paid for all their completed claims.

Issue 4:

Napocor says the GSIS has not been able to settle most of its obligations.

Fact:

Napocor has filed not a single collection suit against the GSIS for non-payment of claimed losses. Because it has strictly adhered to the requirements of the law, there have been no bases for any legal action against the GSIS.

GSIS stands its ground on this issue. For so fundamental a question, GSIS will not budge, because if it does, we will wreak havoc on the entire concept of insuring — and reinsuring — government properties.

Let good faith be restored between the GSIS and Napocor. After all, we believe in the new government's commitment to continue standing on a high moral ground.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

Idyllic Rizal town agrees to become Metro's dumpsite

By Nelson F. Flores

CAN an idyllic town undergo development by agreeing to be the dumping ground of Metro Manila waste?

The municipal government of Rodriguez, Rizal obviously thinks so.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said development was a main reason why Rodriguez has agreed to accept Metro Manila's residual waste.

In a press conference at the MMDA main office in Makati City, Abalos said Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo volunteered portions of the 334,000-square-kilometer town to be the site of the agency's newest dumpsite.

Abalos said the dumpsite was constructed and engineered to comply with international standards.

But he added only residual waste, or those that cannot be recycled or composted, would be dumped at the new trash site.

Abalos said that this residual waste amounts to only 30 percent of the total 6,000 tons of garbage that Metro Manila produces daily.

Cuerpo's only condition is for the MMDA to complete the closure of the Payatas open dumpsite, Abalos explained.

"Payatas is the reason why investors shy away from our town," Cuerpo said.

The **Inquirer** learned from MMDA sources that portions of the Payatas open dumpsite is still being used by the Quezon City government.

As this developed, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez said his department made sure that the new dumpsite complies with all environmental requirements before it issued the Environmental Compliance Certificate.

Alvarez assured Rodriguez residents that the dumpsite is safe and won't cause any damage to the environment.

Atienza out to teach Manila vendors lesson in discipline

By Jerome Aning

"WE JUST want to discipline the vendors, it's for their own sake."

With this declaration, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday stood by his decision to continue with his controversial drive to "liberate the sidewalks," which has already displaced hundreds of street vendors.

Street vendors opposed to the drive continued their protest in front of Manila City Hall yesterday morning. The vendors were joined by members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan's Manila chapter.

The mayor approached the picket line and was quickly mobbed by vendors, mostly from the Divisoria area. They loudly demanded that they be allowed to sell their wares again on the sidewalks of Juan Luna and Ilaya Streets in the Binondo-Tondo area.

The vendors were driven off the streets last month by City Hall's Task Force Zero Obstruction.

"I'm not depriving the vendors of their livelihood," Atienza later told reporters in an interview in his office. "My anti-sidewalk vending campaign is definitely not anti-poor."

He said he wants to deal with the vendors directly, and not with their leaders, who had since adopted a hardline stance on the issue.

The mayor also vowed to legalize sidewalk vending—something the previous city administrations tried but failed to do.

City Hall, Atienza said, has an existing "organized vending program" which regulates street vending in the city. He claimed that the program, which allows vendors to acquire permits and other licenses without resorting to corruption, is also free of red tape.

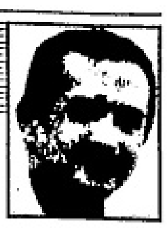
The mayor said Ilaya and Juan Luna streets are major traffic arteries in the busy Divisoria district and should be free of sidewalk vendors who sell their wares right on the street.

"Buyers have a hard time reaching Divisoria because of the heavy traffic caused by obstruction," Atienza explained. "With the obstructions removed from the two streets, it will be the vendors who would benefit because their customers can now get to them easily."

The mayor said the vendors would be allowed to transfer their stalls on side streets such as Tabora, C. Planas, Sto. Cristo, Padre Rada, Asuncion, Elcano and Fulgueras.

Malaysian Airlines confirms it failed to upgrade VIPs

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

THE FIRST official score for the Philippines in the 21st Southeast Asian Games was a zero.

No crying, no swearing out there, please.

In the first place, it was not our men's basketball team that suffered the first defeat for the Philippine contingent in Kuala Lumpur.

That odd mark belongs to the RP women's football team which went down 0-4 against Thailand at the start of soccer competitions on Wednesday.

Please don't list that down as a full-scale disaster. After all, nothing fantastic was expected of the RP women's football team; although the humiliation had RP coaches offering their sincerest regrets.

"I would like to apologize to our countrymen that we started out this way," said head coach Marlon Maro.

***

So sorry for a sorry start. But that woeful sentence will not go down as the first official statement from the RP contingent in Kuala Lumpur.

That honor was reserved for Commissioner Richie Garcia, who on Wednesday announced that everything was in place for Filipino athletes in Kuala Lumpur.

Nothing to worry about, Garcia, a top man in the RP SEA Games Task Force, stressed.

Yes, no worry. In fact, before they left, the Philippine Sports Commission press release machine ably plugged an impending mess that could've been caused by the change of delegation planes at the last minute.

***

Malaysian Airlines System, flag carrier of the Games host, was dumped in favor of Singapore Airlines allegedly over a failure to upgrade a couple of very important passengers.

This allegation was denied, wholeheartedly, by the PSC.

In fact, PSC chair Carlos Tuason phoned us in late Wednesday to bare what he claimed was the real score.

Here's Mr. Tuason:

"There was a bidding and Elite Travel clinched the deal by offering $335 per passenger on board Malaysian Airlines. However, the Task Force, headed by Commissioner Garcia and Steve Hontiveros, later told me that Singapore Airlines was offering $325 per seat. I said OK, because we could economize that way. There would also be special counters during the stopover in Singapore, not to mention that they offered a bigger, more comfortable aircraft."

***

Very clear. We like to believe every word of what Mr. Tuason had said. However, it boggles the mind how a formal travel deal, completed to the final details, would be junked at the last minute if there had been no serious hitches.

Intriguing allegations had been ventilated.

Now, a statement from Sylvesterer Ong, Manila manager of Malaysian Airlines, could help feed the curiosity of people who felt there was something sinister behind the shabby deal.

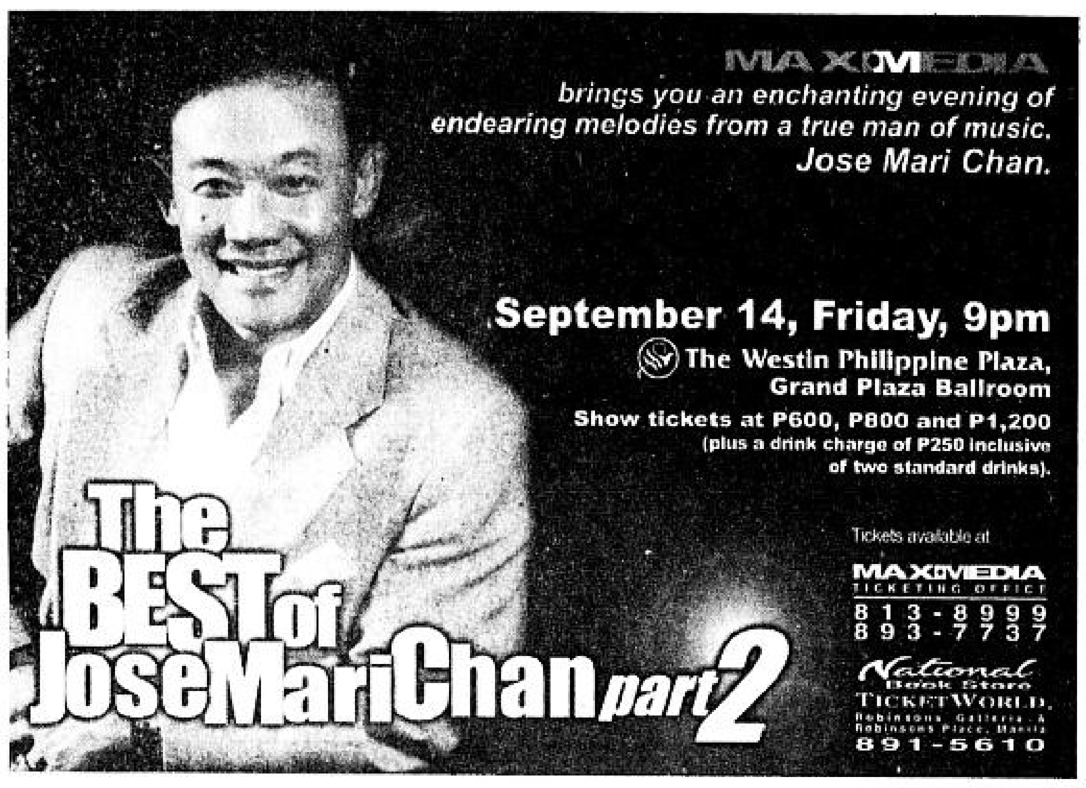
"There was indeed a request for an upgrading but it came very late on Friday," Ong told the Inquirer's Dennis Eroa, who had written a story on the change of airline by the RP delegation.

It was also bared that the request could've been promptly attended to at the start of office hours on Monday. But, before Malaysian Airlines knew it, Elite Travel had reneged and instead bought seats for over 300 RP delegation members at Singapore Airlines.

Needless to say, the bulk of the RP delegation would've not had to fly via Singapore on its way to KL if that very urgent Friday request was accommodated.

Inevitably, it also became open knowledge that the main subjects of the upgrading request were First Gentlemen Mike Arroyo and his youngest son.

They both flew with the RP contingent yesterday. Not on economy, of course.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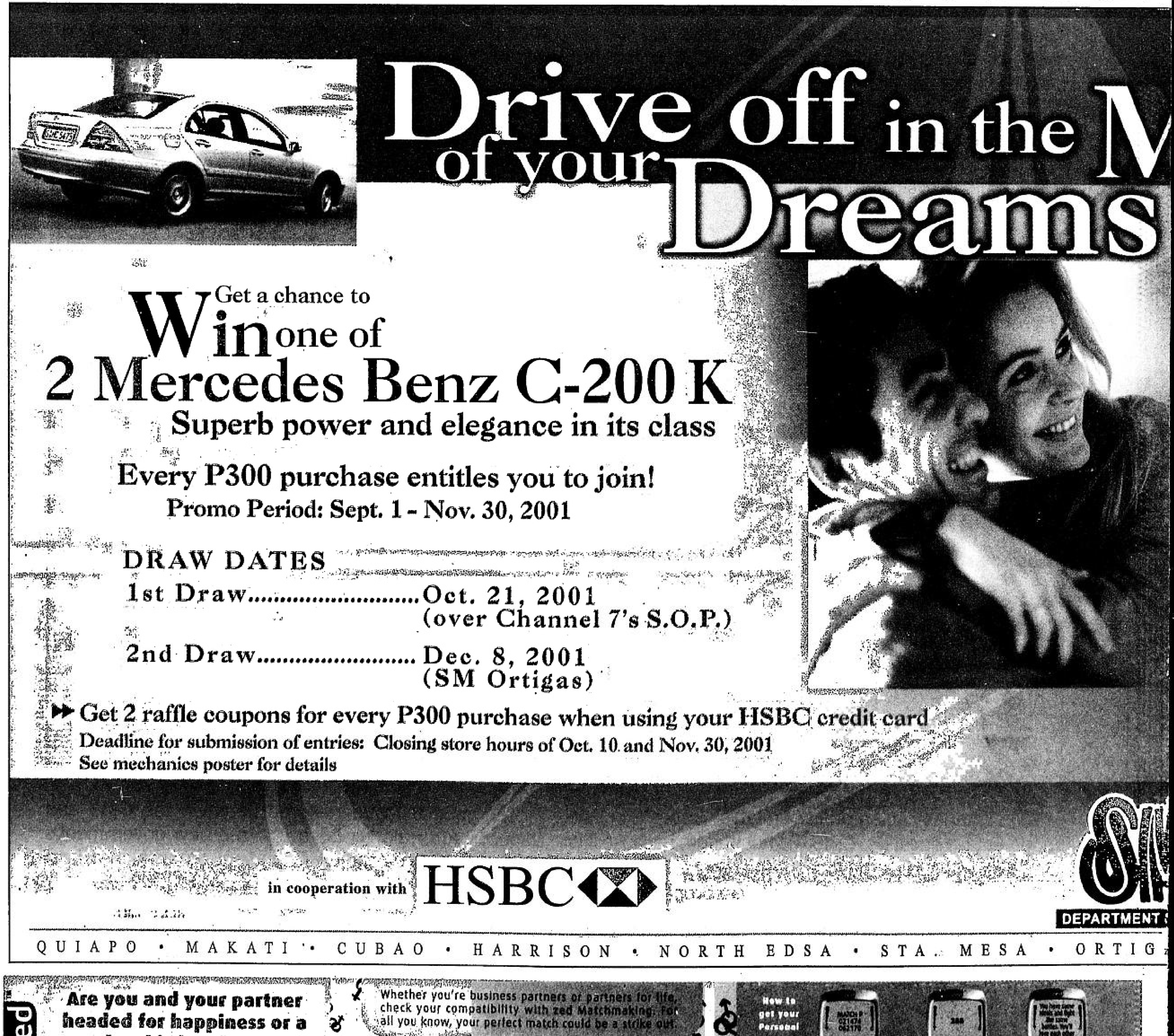
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Vigilantes execute 3rd drug pusher

ARMED men, believed to be members of a vigilante group, shot and killed a suspected drug pusher in Hagonoy, Bulacan on Tuesday, making him the third man killed in two weeks.

Supt. Jose Carreon, Hagonoy police chief, said Joselito Evangelista, 37, of Barangay San Nicolas was shot eight times by men wearing bonnets.

The men, armed with M-16 Armalite rifles attacked Evangelista inside his house at 9 p.m.

Carreon said Evangelista had records of imprisonment at the Hagonoy municipal jail for drug dealing.

Witnesses told police that before the suspects fled on board a passenger jeepney, they shouted "*marami pang* pusher *ang susunod* (More drug pushers would suffer his fate)."

Two weeks ago, suspected drug pushers Carlos Galang, 34, and Crisanto Manansala, 65, were gunned down by the suspected vigilantes. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Be fair to poor call girls and pimps, crusaders urge PNP

By Nelson Forte Flores

THE CRUSADERS for Good Governance of Pasay City has urged the Philippine National Police to be fair when they implement the anti-prostitution law, and not to be prejudiced against practitioners of man's oldest profession.

Earlier, local police authorities arrested nine suspected prostitutes and three alleged pimps at the Edsa-Taft Avenue junction, a known haven of common criminals and denizens of the flesh trade.

Rey Evangelista, CGGPC spokesperson, said that while saturation drives by police against criminal elements and flesh traders are laudable, it is infuriating that big-time criminals and sex peddlers practice their "trade" unhampered.

He said a quick look at Roxas Boulevard, FB Harrison Street, Taft Avenue and Edsa from nightfall until dawn would prove his point.

Evangelista stressed that it is public knowledge that nightspots in these areas are known hangouts of suspected drug lords, illegal gambling operators and big-time flesh traders. He said that these nightspots are just fronts for their illegal activities.

Despite the admission last year of former Southern Police District Office director Senior Supt. Manuel Cabigon that illegal gambling and prostitution thrive in Makati and Pasay nightspots, the absence of a vigorous campaign against the influential people behind these illegal activities is proof of the subjective implementation of the law, Evangelista said.

"They only hit the poor and the helpless," Evangelista said.

If ever police launch a "campaign" against these big-time operators, it is usually just for show with no concrete end result, Evangelista said. He noted that the real culprits are not prosecuted or even brought to the police station for questioning.

Evangelista said that even the city government is guilty of negligence. The operation of these shady nightspots is public knowledge, Evangelista said, but the city government does not exercise its police power and still issues business permits to these establishments.

He claimed to have received information that some city government personnel, especially those from the mayor's office and business permits and licensing department, have signing privileges in these establishments and are regular patrons.

Evangelista said club owners who would not give the people signing privileges soon find themselves and their establishments in trouble.

Teenage girl fished out of Pasig River

By Jerome Aning

THE DECOMPOSING body of a teenage girl was fished out of the Pasig River in Tondo, Manila yesterday morning—the third female found dead in the waterway in two weeks.

The girl was about 16 years old, stood about 5-foot-6, was fair-skinned and had long hair. She was barefoot and was clad in a dirty brown shirt with the word "Starter" printed on it, and a pair of shorts with red floral design.

PO3 Rodelio Lingcong of the city police's homicide section said children playing in Area C, Parola Compound, Tondo, on the Pasig's north bank, spotted the body floating face down and covered with water lilies about 6 a.m.

The children called up barangay authorities who, in turn, summoned police for assistance.

Investigators could not determine how the girl was killed because the body had badly decomposed.

Homicide investigators said Manila Bay and the Pasig River have become the new "dumping site" for the bodies of women who were killed by suspected drug syndicates operating in the city.

The corpses of at least 10 women have since been recovered on the Estero de Quiapo and Estero de San Miguel at the Quiapo Islamic Center.

Police believe the women were "liquidated" for drug deals that had gone bad.

Last Tuesday morning, the body of another woman was found floating in Manila Bay near the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex.

The woman's age could not be determined and her face had decomposed beyond recognition. But investigators noted bruises on her legs, which could be signs of torture.

The victim was wearing a white bikini, black bra, and white shirt printed with Mickey and Minnie Mouse characters.

Act now, mayors tell Abalos

(From page A25)

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad said the MMDA should take full responsibility in finding a solution to the garbage dumpsite problem instead of threatening local government units with fines for not complying with the waste segregation scheme.

"I don't see how fining an LGU for non-compliance of the waste segregation scheme could be a good move at this time. The immediate thing the MMDA must do now is to find a dumpsite where we could dispose of the mountains of stinking garbage heaped on our city streets, that being their responsibility," Trinidad said.

Other mayors who attended the meeting were Mayors Lito Atienza of Manila, Jejomar Binay of Makati, Nene Aguilar of Las Piñas, JV Ejercito of San Juan, Rosendo Capco of Taguig, Soledad Eusebio of Pasig, Toby Changco of Navotas, and Ma. Lourdes Fernando of Marikina. Conspicuously absent was Mandaluyong's Benhur Abalos, son of the MMDA chief.

Mounds of garbage have been accumulating in the past weeks in major streets and thoroughfares of Metro Manila.

Among the other issues that the mayors would be bringing up to Abalos are an effective solution to the traffic problem in Metro Manila, the control and supervision of the police by the LGUs in response to the alarming rise in criminality and to seek a full payment of the LGUs' share in the value added tax.

Atienza promised to present their issues to Abalos for further study.

Meanwhile, five suspects were arrested by Taguig police yesterday for illegally dumping garbage along the C-5 Road.

The suspects were identified as Arnulfo Alpes, Jimmy De Jesus, Alex Alpes, Charlemagne Gopez and Rolly Don. All five are said to be employees of Solahart Philippines. They were caught unloading garbage from a white Mitsubishi L-300 van. The suspects are now detained, facing charges of violation of a municipal ordinance against the illegal dumping of garbage.

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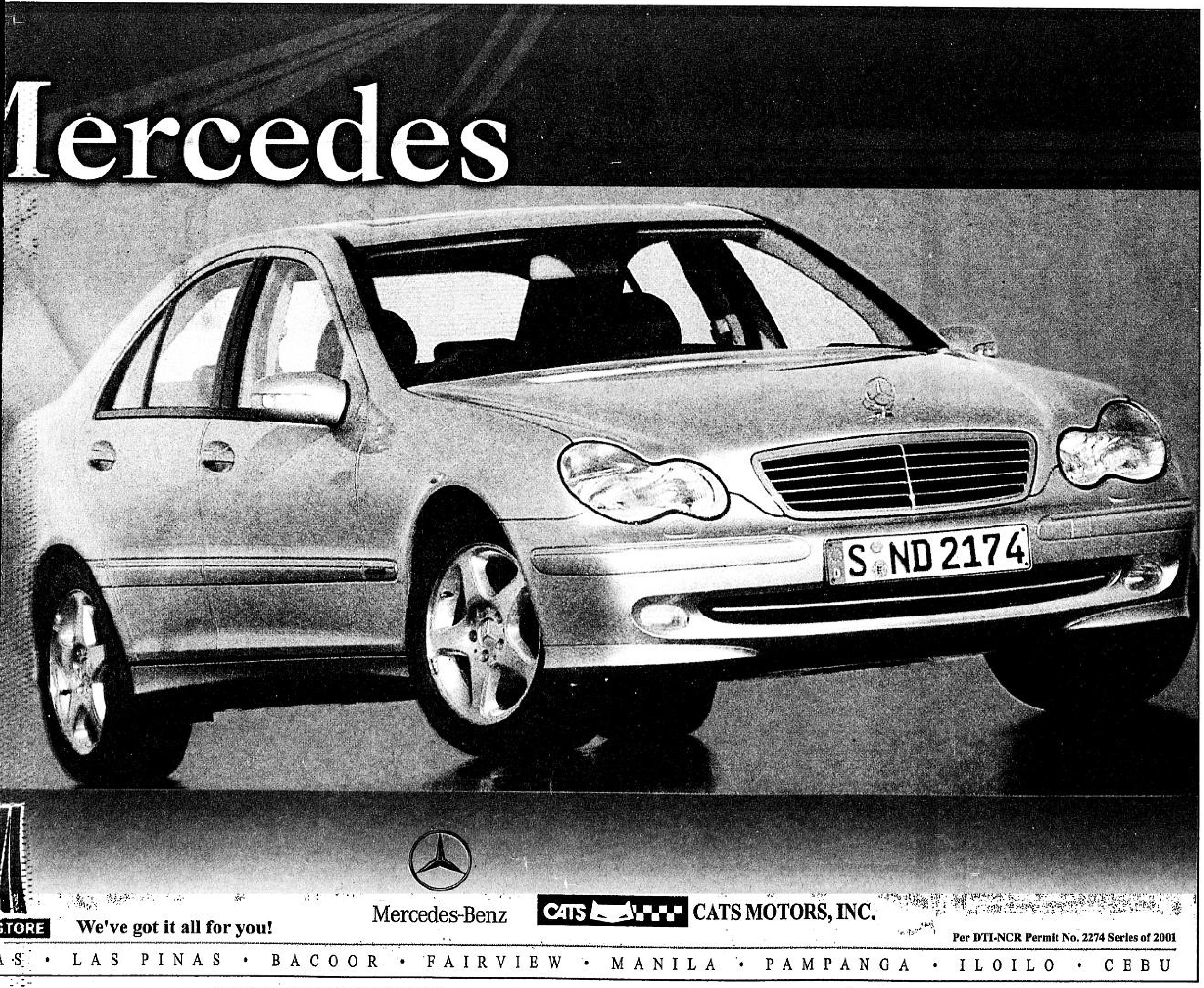

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4	CROCODILE 2
5	A.I.
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	SHREK
8	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	CROCODILE 2
3	A.I.
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
7	A.I.
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SHREK
12	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	A.I.
2	CROCODILE 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	A.I.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	A.I.
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	PLANET OF THE APES.
7	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
8	CROCODILE 2
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SHREK
12	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	CROCODILE 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	A.I.
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SEX EDUCATION
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
12	PLANET OF THE APES

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	CROCODILE 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	SHREK
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	A.I.
9	PLANET OF THE APES
10	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820005

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU
2313075

1	A.I.
2	SHREK
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	COMMAND & CONQUER
5	IRA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	ANIMAL

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	IRA
2	CLOSED
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	ANIMAL
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	A.I.
7	CLOSED
8	COMMAND & CONQUER

SM PAMPANGA
7120015

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BROTHERHOOD
3	SHREK
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SEX MEDUSA
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294075

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	CROCODILE 2

SM DAVAO

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2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	CROCODILE 2

GLORIETTA 4

1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	CROCODILE 2	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	MOULIN ROUGE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SHREK	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere)	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	CROCODILE 2	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 15, 16, 21 & 22 - 9PM	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	A.I. THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	A.I.	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CROCODILE 2	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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1 (DDG)	CROCODILE 2
2 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4 GOLD (DTS)	MOULIN ROUGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	A.I.
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A.I.
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 (ARVIS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 (ARVIS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 (ARVIS)	SHREK

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2	
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BUBOT
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4	BAKIT.DI TOTOHANIN
5	CROCODILE
6	A.I.
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9535

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CHAIN OF COMMAND
A	NAKED EYE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	A.I.
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	A.I.
8 (SDDS)	A.I.
9 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
4 (SDDS)	A.I.
5	CROCODILE 2
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	A.I
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	A.I.
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	A.I.
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	A.I.

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	A.I.
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX MEDUSA

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CROCODILE 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A.I.
4	RUSH HOUR 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CATS & DOGS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CROCODILE 2
2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (DTS)	A.I.

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A.I.
4	CRAZY / BEAUTIFUL
5	SEX MEDUSA

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.6883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	RUSH HOUR 2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A.I.

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	SHREK
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	PARU PARONG LIGAW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	A.I.
3	BROTHERHOOD

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SEX MEDUSA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	HUWAD NA HAYOP

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DUDURUGIN KO'...
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	TEENAGE DIARY
2	BRAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BROTHERHOOD
4 (DTS SR)	RUSH HOUR 2

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1 THX	A.I.
2	A.I.
3	CROCODILE 2
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	A.I.

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	A.I.
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	CROCODILE 2

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVED FOR PRIVATE EVENT
2	A.I.
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	A.I.
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	CROCODILE 2
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SHREK

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	CROCODILE 2
3	SHREK
4	A.I.
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	PAREHAS ANG LABAN

BACOLOD
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1	SHREK
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BROTHERHOOD
5	ANIMAL
6	VENUS

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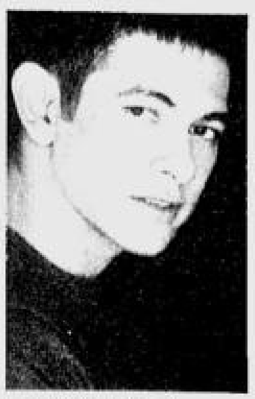
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	CROCODILE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN/ TURN ON
ODEON	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR 2
ROBEN	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	TOMB RAIDERS / GET CARTER
QUEZON-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
REMAR-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
B	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-2	PLANET OF THE APES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	PAREHAS ANG LABAN
CINEMA-3	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A.I.
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	A.I.
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A.I.
CINEMA-12	CROCODILE 2
CINEMA-14	SHREK
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
CINEMA-4	SHREK
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	NAKALIMOT SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	EVANGELINE KATORSE
CINEMA-4	OUTRAGE


VALENCIANO

Gary V holds two shows

GARY Valenciano goes onstage at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental in the monthly concert series, "Crossover Presents," Sept. 13. The show is presented by Crossover 105.1.

Gary will perform favorite crossover tunes in the one-night engagement.

Witty comic Jon Santos, accompanied by Lorrie Ilustre and vocal group The Opera, will join him in the special presentation, with session musicians such as Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Ric Mercado on guitar and Roy Mercado on drums. Musical director is Gerard Salonga.

"Crossover Presents" Gary Valenciano is presented by Gentxt from Globe Handyphone, Shell-Citibank Gold Mastercard, Bayfresh Haven, First Life, Advil and DPC Directories Phils. Corp., with with Café Puro Jade Blend and Imarflex. The show is supported in part by IBM and Mega Magazine.

For ticket inquiries, call Captain's Bar at 750-8888 or Ticketworld at 891-5610. Or keep tuned in to 105.1 Crossover for a chance to get free invitations.

Tonight, Gary takes his award-winning concert, "Radical," on the road as he performs at the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City.

The concert will also feature the Powerplay Band and The Manoeuvres, with Mon Faustino as musical director.

Gary will sing some of the cuts from his repackaged "Revive" album under Universal Records. Included in his repertoire are "I Will Be Here," "Love is the Answer" and "Lupa."

The repackaged album comes with a VCD containing the videos of "I Will Be Here" and "Lupa," both directed by Boom Dayupay, with co-direction by Dave "DFX" Yu, Paul Navarro and Reinzi Balao.

"Gary V: Radical" in Naga is a production of Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. It is a benefit for the Bicolandia Youth for Christ Foundation and Ladies Association of Bicol Sector.

The show is presented by Speed, with Graceland/Geewan, Coca-Cola and Spring Valley Resort.

It is also brought in part by Philusa, Chili Peppers, Tuseran Forte, Willprint Graphics Center, Solar Marketing and El Construction.

Official concert stations are ABS-CBN TV II-Naga and PBN TV 5.

Official radio stations are My Only Radio (MOR-ABS-CBN), Nikki 95.9 and 97.5 OK-FM.

For more details about Gary, call Manila Genesis Entertainment and Management Inc. at 725-1932 or visit Gary's official website at www.garyv.com.

Tips on wearing contact lenses . . .

(From page A32)

for some of my "Shanghai Tang" pieces which I got in Hong Kong.

When all this is over, "Rosebud" should open a boutique concentrating on Chinese-themed women's clothing and she'll surely do brisk business. After all, she's her own best walking advertisement.

I can now understand why she was such an effective agent. "Rosebud" is very charming, well-read and able to instantly develop a rapport with whatever group she's interacting with.

Wacky sense of humor

ON TUESDAYS, the sitcom "Arriba Arriba" also tapes in ABS CBN and both **John Lapus** and **Ai-Ai delas Alas** make it a point to pass by my set during their taping lulls since our wacky sense of humor have bonded us. The two were on my set during some parts of "Rosebud's" interview.

"Rosebud" complimented John who was dressed in late '70s early '80s-style disco regalia for having "prettier make-up" than her.

To Ai-Ai she said that when Ai-Ai mounts her next big comedy concert, "Rosebud" hoped that there would be a character inspired by her, and if Ai-Ai wanted, she'd even lend her some of her apparel so the costumes would be authentic.

Asking someone to spoof you in our new pop culture age is a testament of "cool!"

Lastly, "Rosebud" wisely established common ground for us since we're both single moms of sons. She asked me how my son Josh's healing was coming along. I was touched by her concern and impressed by how truly well-informed she was.

She was solicitous during the duration of the taping when we had to cut thrice because my eyes kept tearing and my eye make-up kept smearing off and we needed to retouch and I had to wipe my endless flow of tears.

"Rosebud" was also generous with her praise regarding how much she "liked my flawless skin." She was self-effacing, constantly saying that at 45, she's already "old" and that she wasn't at her peak with her answers since she'd lacked sleep.

I reassured her that she not only looked more attractive and youthful in person, but she was also articulate and a pleasure to interview since she was very forthcoming.

After our nearly two-hour taping session, "Rosebud" said goodbye, leaving behind her cellphone number and asking me to keep in touch and to please text her after her Senate appearance.

JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHERE ROBOTS DREAM & DESIRE
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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
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GLORIETTA 4 / ALABANG TOWN CENTER
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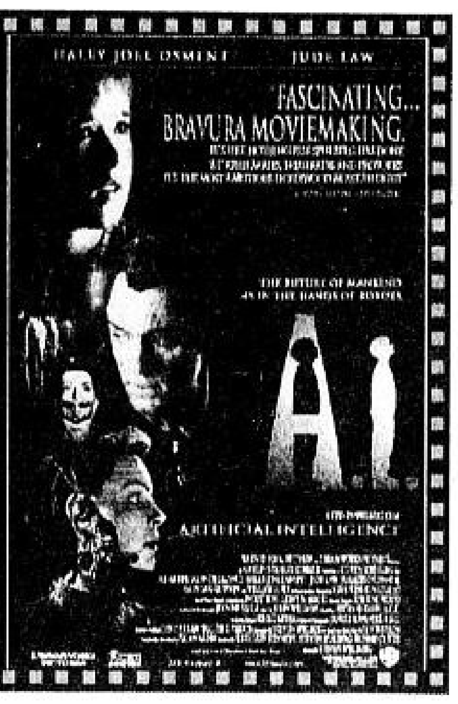
For ticket reservations, visit www.sureseats.com
(MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13)


HALEY JOEL OSMENT
JUDE LAW
FASCINATING... BRAVURA MOVIEMAKING.
A.I.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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"A DELICATELY BEAUTIFUL FILM"
MESMERIZING
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The war is long over.
But a personal battle continues to rage.

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TRIPLE WINNER!
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL
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Cinematography Award: Dramatic & Grand Jury Prize: Dramatic
THREE SEASONS
Starring: Harvey Keitel, Lola Al Guimond, Don Duong & Nguyen Ngoc Hiep
Three Seasons tells three tangentially related stories: a romance between a forward-thinking prostitute and a cyclo driver; a street kid who loses his case of cheap trinkets; and a student of a reclusive teacher/poet who has lost his fingers to leprosy. Each of the stories is quite simple, but together they create a complex, layered experience of a country simultaneously caught up in its own past, present and future.
Vietnamese-American Bui's film has the distinction of being the first American production to shoot in Vietnam since the War.A cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story, Bui's lyrical script and Rinzler's magical camera work combine to create an original, lasting motion picture.
Language: Vietnamese w/ English sub-titles
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POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:00	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 12:40, 3:30, 6:20, 9:10
SHREK - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - P 13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE BEGINS SEPT. 12
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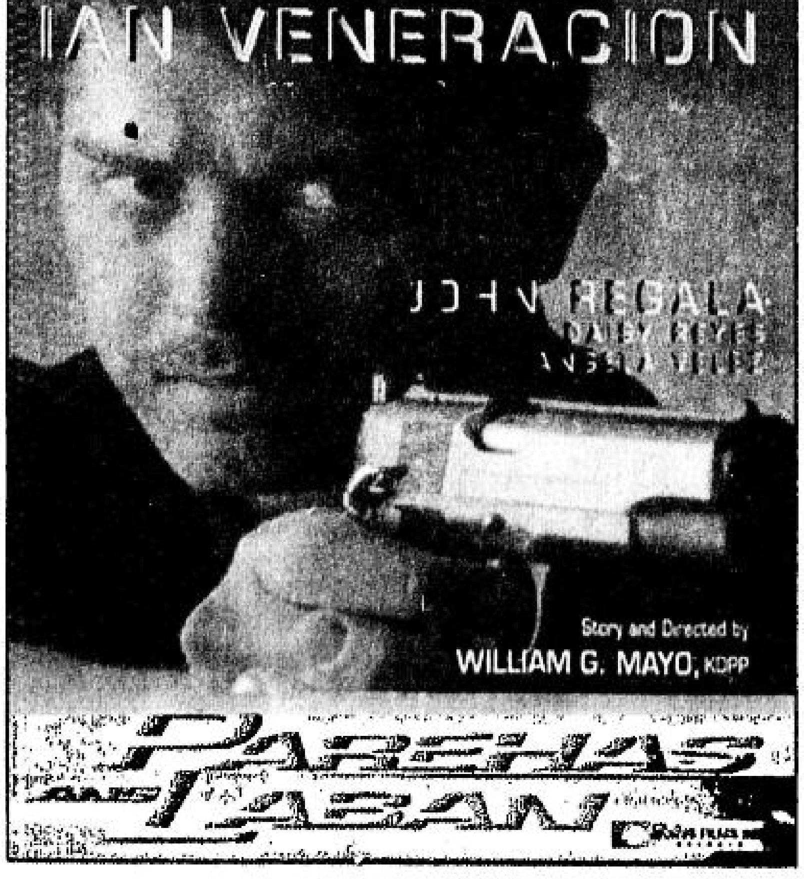
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JOHN REGALA
Story and Directed by
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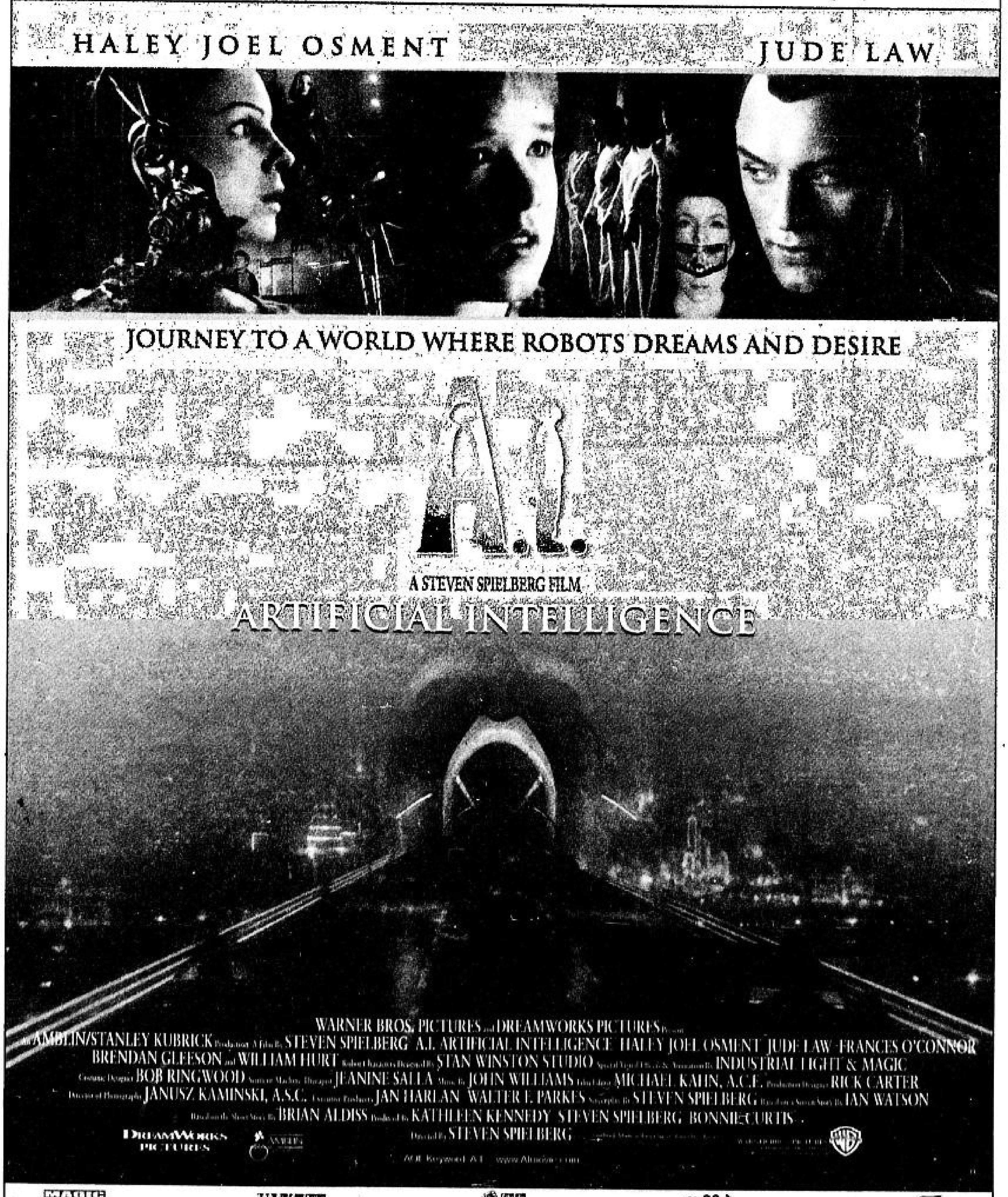
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DREAMWORKS PICTURES

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88.3
92.3
SMART

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Tips on wearing contact lenses and where to get Rosebud's cheongsams

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

WARNING to all who wear contact lenses on a daily basis for periods exceeding 12 consecutive hours, just like me. There is such a thing as overwearing your lenses even if they are extended wear.

I've always been conscientious about thoroughly cleaning my lenses after removing them. I always apply lens lubricant drops to re-wet my lenses.

Nonetheless, because of too much contact lens wearing over the weekend I woke up with swollen eyes, discharge and non-stop tearing. The tears were very *mahapdi*, prompting me to see my ophthalmologist, Dr. **Marcel Banzon** in Makati Med last Monday.

After a thorough check-up, he found that there was a mild infection, but my main eye affliction stemmed from a lack of oxygen going into the eye.

When you think of it, it does make sense. A contact lens sits directly on top of your eye, even if you re-wet it, the portion that covers the eye doesn't receive any of the moisture. In my case the extremely bright lights I work under exacerbate the drying effect, added to that the long hours, normally up to 14 hours that I'm wearing my lenses.

This had already happened to me in the past, about two years ago. That time, though, my cornea was in worse condition.

I'm wearing my glasses now and treating my eyes with antibacterial, anti-inflammatory eye drops and artificial tears in gel form at night.

Sound advice Dr. Banzon gave me is to avoid wearing my lenses for more than 14 hours straight and to try to have a day or two in a week where I can go contact lens-free.

Contact lenses are a great convenience which I had the tendency to abuse. After the discomfort I've been through I resolve to be a more responsible user.

Rosebud's cheongsams

I HAD the chance to tape a one-on-one interview with Mary "Rosebud" Ong last Tuesday night. The fist part aired yesterday and we will air the second part today at 5 p.m.

She walked into our studio a little past 9 p.m. with only two unobtrusive security men with her.

"Rosebud" was dressed in an attractive fuchsia pink printed cheongsam with matching plain pink capri pants over pretty silvery beaded sandals.

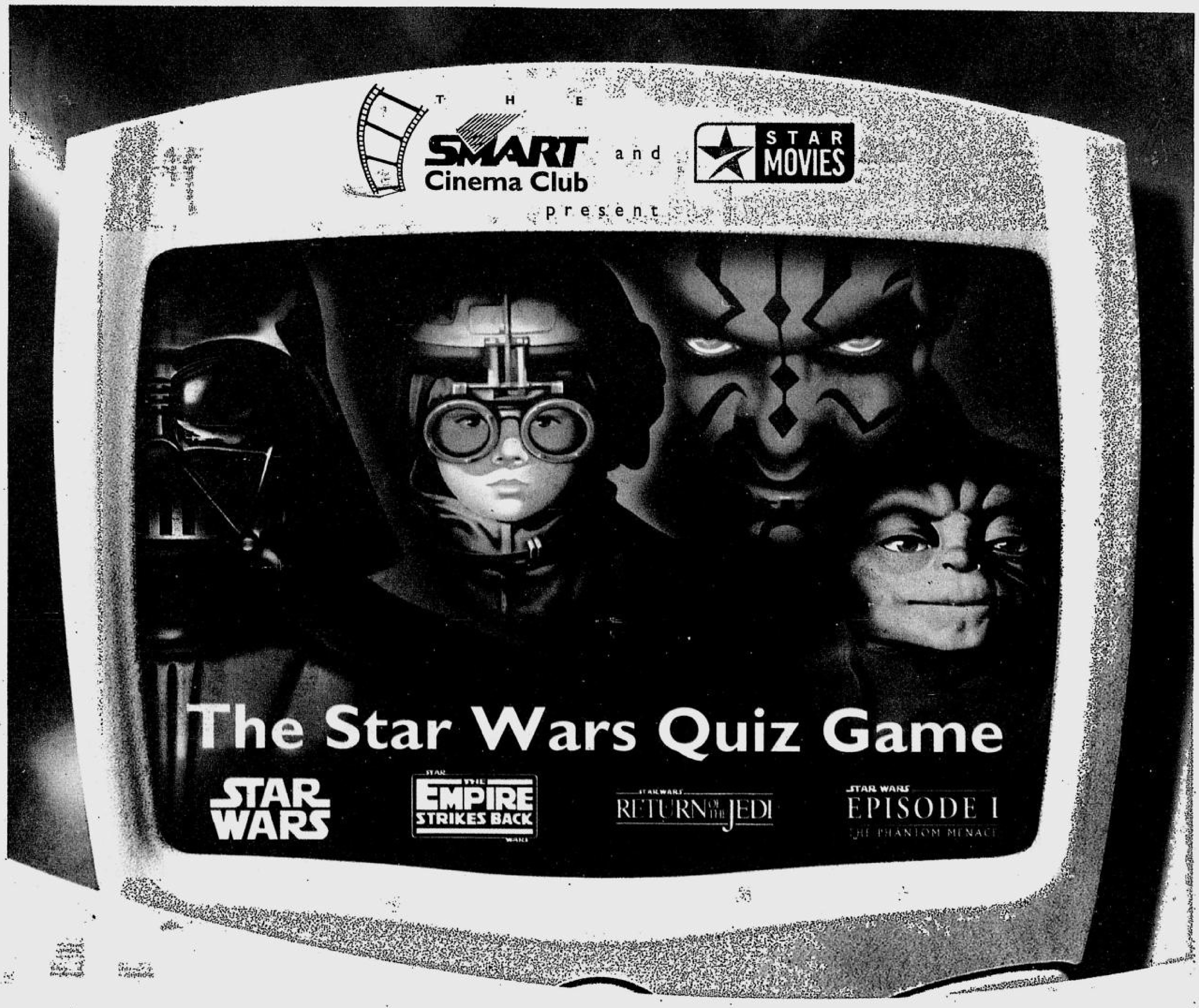
I asked her where all her beautiful tops came from, my favorite being the bright pink with lime green ensemble she wore in one of the Senate investigation sessions. They had all come form her recent trip to China and she told me the reason she started wearing cheongsams is because she has gained 20 pounds since she'd first come out in the open in November of 2000. None of her old clothes fit her now and the tops are a way of beautifully camouflaging her weight gain.

"Rosebud" gave me a shopping tip. Remember that she must be a keen bargain hunter since she used to be a *viajera* who sold her Hong Kong bought goods in Virra Mall during the late 80s and early 90s.

The cheongsams are made of silk but very reasonably priced when bought in China, costing from about P200 for the simple unembroidered ones to as much as P2,500 for the intrinsically embroidered versions.

I've always been a fan of Chinese-inspired apparel, and I realized how much I'd overpaid

TIPS/ A31


THE
SMART Cinema Club
and
STAR MOVIES
present
The Star Wars Quiz Game
STAR WARS
THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
STAR WARS RETURN OF THE JEDI
STAR WARS EPISODE I THE PHANTOM MENACE

All Smart Cinema Club members will get a chance to win exciting STAR WARS collectibles just by playing the Star Wars Quiz Game. And if they are subscribers to cable providers carrying Star Movies, they may also join the Star Movies Raffle for a chance to win a trip for 2 to Sydney, Australia!

To join the Smart Cinema Club:
- Key in "JOIN CINEMA" and send to 239.
Follow the instructions that will be sent to you.

To play the Star Wars Quiz Game and get a chance to win collectibles:
1. Key in "PLAY STAR" and send to 239.
2. You'll receive a trivia question and multiple choice answers about the Star Wars movies.
3. To answer, simply press "Reply" and key in the number (1,2,3 or 4) corresponding to your chosen answer and press "Send".
4. Each correct answer entitles you to one raffle entry.
5. You will receive a message acknowledging if you got the answer correctly.
6. To find out the total raffle points accumulated, key in "STARWARS" and send to 239.

Note: If you're already playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first to play the Star Wars Quiz Game.

To get a chance to win a trip for 2 to Sydney, join the Star Movies raffle:

1. To join, key in "STAR MOVIES" and send to 239.

2. You'll be asked to text in your cable operator and cable account no. to 239.

3. You will then receive a confirmation message.

Note: Exclusive for club members with cable providers carrying STAR MOVIES.

Star Wars Quiz Game Promo Mechanics:
1. All SMART GSM subscribers that are members of SMART Cinema Club are eligible to participate in the Star Wars Quiz Game and win a Star Wars Collectibles Package.
2. Every correct answer in the Star Wars Quiz Game during the promo period credits the registered subscriber one (1) raffle entry. A participant may only win once.

Star Movies Raffle Promo Mechanics:
3. All SMART GSM subscribers that are members of SMART Cinema Club and are current subscribers of any cable operator authorized to carry Star Movies International are eligible to participate in the Star Movies Raffle to get a chance to win a 4-day 3-night tour for 2 to Sydney, Australia.
4. Each subscriber will automatically receive one (1) computer-generated raffle entry when he registers for the Star Movies Raffle. The subscriber is entitled to only one (1) raffle entry.
5. One (1) eligible winner will be drawn during the promo period. Winner must have no delinquent accounts with his cable operator.
6. Winners for both raffles will be drawn on September 17, 2001, 10:00 a.m., at the Cable Technology Asia Corp. (CTAC) office, 2903-D West Tower, PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Draw will include all raffle entries collected up to 11:59 p.m. of September 15, 2001.
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail, text message, and a call to their registered mobile number.
8. For Metro Manila residents, their prizes can be picked up starting Sept. 17, 3:00 p.m., at the CTAC office, 2903-D West Tower, PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For provincial winners, CTAC will send their prizes through registered mail.
9. Winners must present at least one valid ID with photo and signature to collect their prizes.
10. Promo period is from Sept. 2 to Sept. 15, 2001.

All text messages sent are P2.50 each.
See flyers for more details.

This service is available through: Buddy SMART GOLD GSM

In cooperation with: STAR MOVIES

POWERED BY: Information Gateway

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

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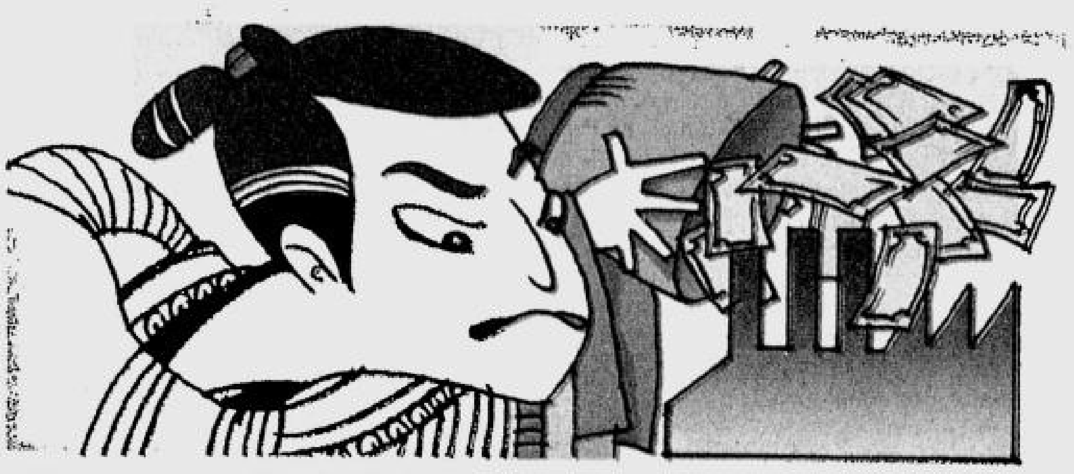
Japan firm OKs ₱2-B RP expansion

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.



JAPANESE giant Rohm Electronics is pouring in more than P2 billion to expand its factory in Cavite despite the meltdown in global demand for consumer electronic products and computers.

Rohm Electronics Philippines Inc. is spending P1.47 billion to beef up the production of microchip resistors and capacitors, large-scale integrated circuits, test boxes, and quad flat packages.

Sister firm Rohm Apollo Semiconductor is also pumping in P619 million to boost production of microchip transistors and tantalum capacitors.

These expansion projects are expected to generate additional exports of $527 million a year. The incremental output will be exported to Japan, Asia, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the United States.

But in its application with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Rohm said that the implementation of these projects were dependent on getting the 5-percent gross income tax. The Peza board is currently discussing Rohm's request and it has requested the Department of Finance's stand on the issue.

These projects would push Rohm's total investments in the Philippines to nearly P10 billion over the last two years at its 2.7-hectare manufacturing facility at the People's Technology Complex in Carmona, Cavite.

Last year, Rohm spent P500.93 million to expand its production of microchip resistors and capacitors, large scale integrated circuits, quad flat packages and test box. The factory has been in operation since 1991.

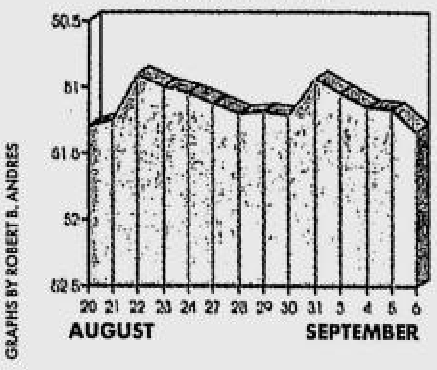
Rohm Apollo also poured in P6.7 billion in 1999 to jack up its production of microchip transistors and tantalum capacitors. This project is using surface mounting technology to produce lighter, thinner, and smaller component computer chips that will enable more integration of functions and lower costs for electronic product makers.

Rohm is one of the world's biggest semiconductor manufacturers of integrated circuits, transistors, diodes, sensors, liquid crystal displays, resistors, print heads, and capacitors to major manufacturers of automobiles, computers, communication devices, and other high-tech components.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.335 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 6, 2001

¥ 121.21 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 6, 2001

GOLD:$271.50/272.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 6, 2001

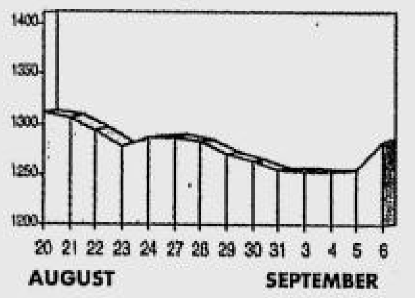
Sept. 6, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.127269	1.000000	51.2160
Japan	Yen	0.009337	0.008283	0.4242
United Kingdom	Pound	1.642994	1.457500	74.6473
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144525	0.128208	6.5663
Switzerland	Franc	0.661620	0.586923	30.0598
Canada	Dollar	0.723815	0.642096	32.8856
Singapore	Dollar	0.644044	0.571331	29.2613
Australia	Dollar	0.585715	0.519588	26.6112
Bahrain	Dinar	2.990262	2.652661	135.8587
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.300581	0.266645	13.6565
Brunei	Dollar	0.643785	0.571102	29.2496
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000125	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025423	0.022553	1.1551
UAE	Dirham	0.306990	0.272331	13.9477
Korea	Won	0.000886	0.000786	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.887100	45.4337
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.453567	23.2299
France	Franc	0.152450	0.135238	6.9263
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.402548	20.6169
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064468	3.3018
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021991	1.1263
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000458	0.0235
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.149200	7.6414
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004425	0.2266
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005332	0.2731
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021991	1.1263
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.126385	57.6889

STOCK MARKET

Shares surge 2.3% on bargain-hunting

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES closed at their highest in more than a week yesterday as players bought back key blue chips such as PLDT after the main index held above its 1,250 support level in recent sessions.

"All the share prices are well below their net asset values so it's simply an oversold market and we're just seeing a rebound," said Dennis Du of ATR Kim Eng Securities Inc.

"The rise today is primarily for technical reasons," said Fitzgerald Aclan of KGI Securities Inc.

However, he also credited "recent economic numbers that came out showing positive signs," such as the lower inflation rate in August and the surprisingly strong economic growth in the three months to June.

The main index advanced 29.41 points, or 2.34 percent, to end at 1,283.74 points, near the day's high of 1,284.06 points.

Gainers were in a near three-to-one majority.

Some traders said there was foreign buying in PLDT, boosting total turnover to P525.5 million from Wednesday's P295.6 million.

PLDT, the heaviest-weighted share on the main index, accounted for about a fourth of the market's total turnover. The stock jumped P30, or 5.9 percent, to end at P535.

Inquirer wires

Camacho seeks early end to GSIS-Napocor dispute

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) is the sole insurer of government property and assets, according to the chair of National Power Corp.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who chairs the Napocor board, said "GSIS is mandated as the insurer of government properties."

However, Camacho has declined to take sides on the issue, saying his "position is to support the legal role they play."

He also stressed that the process of reinsuring government properties should be "under a transparent procedure."

Camacho expressed hope that the two institutions would reach an agreement soonest as "the situation is becoming unproductive."

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia and Napocor president Jesus Alcordo have been at odds the past weeks following Alcordo's move to handle the bidding for the reinsurance of the power firm's assets, worth between $8 billion and $10 billion.

Formerly an energy secretary, Camacho was designated Napocor chair on a concurrent capacity as spelled out under the recently passed Omnibus Power Act.

Camacho, who as finance secretary also holds direct supervision over GSIS, has met separately with Garcia and Alcordo in an effort to reconcile differences for the reinsurance of Napocor assets.

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Jollibee lands in list of Asia's 20 best employers

EMPLOYEES of the Philippines' best employers are more committed to their companies than their counterparts in the region.

A measure of employees' commitment to their companies, the Engagement Score achieved by the country was almost 72 percent compared with the region's average Engagement Score of 55 percent.

This was one of the main findings of the inaugural "Best Employers in Asia" study, conducted by global management consulting and outsourcing firm Hewitt Associates, in conjunction with The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review.

The study also noted that the employees of the Best Employers in the Philippines registered the highest levels of engagement at the supervisory level.

Local success story Jollibee Foods Corp. was ranked at No. 16 on the list of the Best Employers in Asia, as well as topping the list of The Philippines' Best Employers.

The Philippines' other Best Employers, in order of ranking, are: Smart Communications Inc., Avon Cosmetics Inc., International Exchange Bank, Exel Philippines Inc., William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc., Sun Life of Canada Philippines Inc., Bayer Philippines Inc., Pfizer Inc., Philips Philippines and United Laboratories Inc. The last two companies on the list were tied in 10th place.

Researched simultaneously in 10 countries/regions across Asia, the Best Employers in Asia study attracted 355 participating organizations from which over 92,000 employees contributed data.

The participating organizations represent 26 different industry sectors, including the electronics and electrical sector and the transportation and storage sector, each accounting for 10 percent of all participating organizations.

The hospitality and restaurants sector accounted for 7 percent, while the telecommunications sector and the banking, finance and investment services sector accounted for 6 percent of participating organizations.

Participating companies in the Philippines represented 22 different industries, making the Philippine study the most diverse sector-wise.

A mix of local and foreign, and public and private companies took part in the study, as did a small number of government-sector organizations.

The study was open to organizations established for more than two years and with over 100 employees, in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand.

The study did not include a search for Best Employers in Japan but did research key people challenges facing Japanese businesses and the human resources practices put in place to address these.

"Close relationships and easy communication between employees and senior management characterize the Philippines' Best Employers, as well as practices that bond people to the business, to leaders and to other stakeholders," said John de Veyra, the managing consultant for Hewitt Associates in the Philippines who was involved in the study.

"Almost without exception, employees of the Philippines' Best Employers possess a strong sense of purpose and enjoy a family-like atmosphere in the workplace," he said.

Overall, the judges found a number of characteristics common to the Best Employers in Asia.

The Best Employers were found to have highly engaged and committed employees. They also contribute to Asia's competitiveness, are more prepared for the future, and are able to attract and retain the talent they need. They do the right things to grow and support their business and have created a culture for "the best."

The Best Employers in Asia are better at nurturing talent, and give their people a strong sense of purpose, although they do not necessarily pay the highest salaries.

"Our research has shown that Asia's Best Employers are those companies which take a longer-term perspective in building their companies and contributing to Asia's competitiveness and growth," says The Asian Wall Street Journal and Far Eastern Economic Review publisher, Philip Revzin.

Mick Bennett, Asia-Pacific managing director at Hewitt Associates, said: "Best Employers in the region are also best at creating employment.

From 1999 to 2000 Best Employers increased the number of jobs in their companies by 8 percent—creating nearly 50-percent more jobs than other companies. Additionally, as they are also better at retaining employees, they save on recruiting, which international studies show can be anywhere from 40 percent to 240 percent of salary:"

"In other studies undertaken globally, Best Employers have shown better business results than other companies," Bennett said. "In Asia Pacific, since the Best Employers are more prepared for the future and better at nurturing the talent they need, this research will be continued to determine whether, over time, the Best Employers in Asia also experience better business results."

Three survey tools were used to help identify the Best Employers in Asia: an Employee Opinion Questionnaire, Hewitt's People Practices Inventory™, and a CEO Questionnaire.

These tools were used to conduct a detailed probe into the people practices of the participating organizations, exploring areas such as employee engagement, people programs and policies and business leaders' philosophies and approaches to managing people.

Hewitt representatives analyzed the data and submitted their analysis to independent judging panels in each country, which then identified the Best Employers in Asia. The identities of participating organizations were concealed from the judging panels by using codes in place of the participants' names.

Judges then compiled a list of the top 20 Best Employers in Asia from a shortlist comprising Best Employers in the individual countries.

Hewitt Associates is a global management consulting and outsourcing firm specializing in strategic workforce solutions. With fiscal 2000 global revenues of nearly $1.3 billion, the firm services more than 65 percent of the Fortune 500 and more than one-third of the Global 500 companies.

Dow Jones & Co., on the other hand, publishes The Wall Street Journal and its international and online editions, Barron's and SmartMoney magazines and other periodicals.

In Asia, Dow Jones & Co. also publishes The Asian Wall Street Journal, The Far Eastern Economic Review and provides electronic information services through Dow Jones Newswires and Factiva, a Dow Jones and Reuters joint venture.

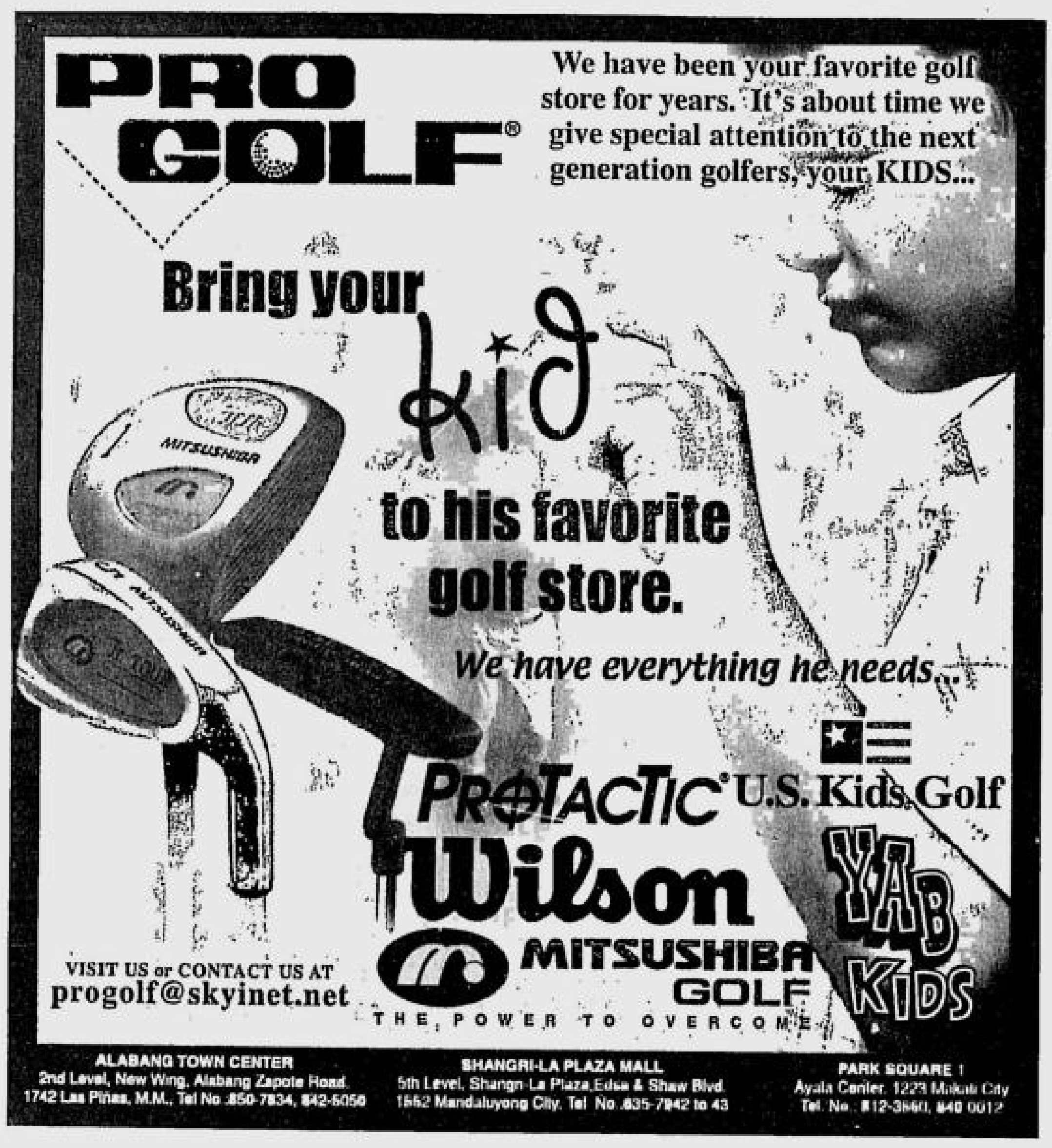
Filipinos are more committed to their companies than their counterparts in the region

The Philippines' Best Employers

1. Jollibee Foods Corp.
2. Smart Communications Inc.
3. Avon Cosmetics Inc.
4. International Exchange Bank
5. Exel Philippines Inc.
6. William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc.
7. Sunlife of Canada Philippines Inc.
8. Bayer Philippines Inc.
9. Pfizer Inc.
10. Philips, Philippines
10. United Laboratories Inc. * 10th place is a tie

The Best Employers In Asia

1. The Portman Ritz-Carlton,Shanghai	China
2. Agilent Technologies Singapore Pte Ltd.	Singapore
3. The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore	Singapore
4. Western Digital (M) Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia
5. P.T. Elegant Textile Industry	Indonesia
6. Federal Express Services (M) Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia
7. Tricon Restaurants International - Thailand	Thailand
8. The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong	Hong Kong
9. AMD (Thailand) Ltd.	Thailand
10.Navion (Shanghai) Software Devpt. Co., Ltd.	China
11. Tenaga Nasional Berhad	Malaysia
12. Ford Lio Ho Motor Co., Ltd.	Taiwan
13. Intel Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia
14. Four Seasons Hotel Singapore	Singapore
15. Agilent Technologies (M) Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysia
16. Jollibee Foods Corp.	Philippines
17. H&CB	Korea
18. Shanghai Hormel Foods Co. Ltd.	China
19. Crown Motors Ltd.	Hong Kong
20. Hewlett-Packard Korea Ltd.	Korea



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Court asked to reverse Subic shipyard ruling

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILYARDS Holdings Inc., operator of the country's largest shipyard, has warned that a recent decision of the Supreme Court, if not reversed, will effectively renationalize the shipyard and ship-repair industry and dampen government efforts to attract foreign investments.

Philyards and the Committee on Privatization have asked the high court to reconsider its decision late last year to void the sale of the government's 87.7-percent stake in Philippine Shipyard and Engineering Corp. (Philseco) to Philyards.

The Supreme Court, in a decision penned by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, ruled that the sale was invalid because Philseco, as a shipyard, was a public utility subject to the 40-percent cap set by the Constitution on foreign ownership.

Philyards has asked the Supreme Court to hear its arguments on whether the effects of its decision will adversely affect the country and countless others parties involved in the case.

"Renationalizing the industry, despite its continued listing by the Board of Investments as a preferred pioneer area of investment open to 100-percent foreign equity ownership, would force the divestment of foreign investments from all of the country's major shipyards," Philyards warned.

Data furnished by Philyards showed that the court ruling would adversely affect five other large shipyards that were majority owned by foreign groups, such as Subic Shipyard and Engineering Inc., Keppel Philippines Marine Inc., Keppel Cebu Shipyard Inc., Tsuneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc. and FBM Aboitiz Shipyard/FM Aboitiz Marince Inc.

"But the decision will wreak havoc on the government's foreign investment program. The country is already undergoing an extremely difficult time competing with other

COURT/ B3

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BSP decides to keep key overnight rates

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas decided yesterday to maintain its overnight interest rates at current levels despite a fall in inflation to 6.3 percent on the year in August from 6.8 percent in July.

In a statement, the central bank said the weekly meeting of the policy-making Monetary Board decided to keep rates unchanged because of continuing risks to price stability.

"The recent readings on the inflation outlook point to reduced pressures due to ample food supply, the series of rollbacks in the local pump prices of petroleum products and the strengthening of the peso," it said.

"However, while the risks have lessened, these remain, due to lingering price risks from the recent depreciation of the exchange rate and the emerging uptrend in world oil prices as a result of the coming winter season in the West."

The bank said the benign inflation did give it room for flexibility in monetary policy but added: "The board felt it would be prudent to wait for a firmer indication of the impact of recent policy actions, particularly the series of increases in liquidity reserves."

Market analysts say the central bank's signals since the inflation data was announced on Wednesday indicate a rate cut is in the offing but that the timing is not certain.

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate is at 9 percent and overnight lending at 11.25 percent.

The bank has slashed rates by 600 basis points since December but has not made any cut since mid-May because of the effect on the peso.

The peso fell to a six-month low of 54.335 to the dollar in late July but recovered to above 51 by mid-August after the central bank moved to mop up peso

BSP/ B3

The search for Aguirre's billions

THE PATRIARCH of Banco Filipino and BF Homes, Tomas Aguirre, died more than five years ago but up to now the court is still searching for his fabled wealth.

The old man died intestate, meaning without a will. The estate administrator, Banco Filipino chair Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, initially declared only P130 million, then revised to P500 million, as what his father had all left to his heirs.

In any case, the discovery application filed by Aguirre's sister, Nanette, who is opposing her brother's assumption over the family heirloom, has by now unearthed P1.2 billion of the father's investments tucked away in various corporate nooks and crannies.

According to the legal grapevine, another P1 billion has been discovered but has yet to be incorporated into the estate, subject to the testimony of vital witnesses, including the Aguirres' half-sister, Cathy, who is head of Banco Filipino's investments group, and former Congresswoman Girlie Villarosa, treasurer of a BF subsidiary.

For still unclear reasons, Villarosa and Cathy Aguirre have been trying to dodge off attempts to place themselves on the witness stand and be cross-examined by Nanette's lawyer.

The court proceedings suffered another delay last week after Bobby Aguirre's lawyer, Filemon Fernandez, withdrew from the case, citing a newly discovered heart ailment. This prompted Pasay Regional Trial Court Judge Eleuterio Guerrero to suspend the hearings until a replacement shall have been named.

Nanette, who is based in Seattle and herself trying to dodge off a counter-suit initiated by her brother in the United States, is being represented by Francis Lim of Accra.

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

Brother Bobby's battery of lawyers is headed by no less than retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, who, as you know, is the chief counsel of another famous client trying to dodge off government attempts to recover alleged billions in ill-gotten wealth.

Birthday boys

THE BIRTHDAY party that Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad used as an alibi to escape a meeting that the Usec himself had ironically set last week with a Spanish railways investors group was a merrymaking not meant for his boss.

This we got from no less than Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez himself.

It was actually Trinidad's own birthday party, which the Usec co-celebrated with another birthday boy, the department's director for legal affairs. Trinidad, who excused himself for "a few minutes" to attend the celebration, never returned despite the Spanish visitors waiting for more than two hours.

Partying during office hours, incidentally, reminds us of a Soviet-era saying about government work and salary: We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us.

The nearest local equivalent we could think of is, "*Konting sweldo, konting trabaho* (roughly, Little pay, little work)."

In any case, Trinidad, a career bureaucrat, has reason to celebrate: He is off to France next week to visit a French railways company.

Hasta la vista!

Or, rather, *Bon voyage!*

An eye for good news

THE QUALITY of medical care in this country will go up a few notches with the opening of the Asian Eye Institute in Rockwell Center later this month and, by Christmas, the American-managed Asian Hospital in Filinvest Alabang.

The eye facility is located in the Rockwell Center for the simple reason that the Lopezes are majority partners in the venture. Boston-based Dr. Felipe Tolentino, whose clients include the Marcoses, the Estradas, and the Lopezes, is president and industrial partner.

The Asian Hospital, on the other hand, will be staffed by many Makati Medical Center specialists, who are likely to poach well-heeled clients from the country's premier but capacity-choked hospital.

Heard through the grapevine

THE TWO additional Hong Kong flights that had originally been announced by Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap as to be split between Cebu Pacific of John Gokongwei and Air Philippines will now be both given to Cebu Pacific.

The re-award came after the Gokongwei camp grumbled that Air Philippines is, like Philippine Airlines, also an ATO—Another Tan Office.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Pancake House forms subsidiary, gets new investor

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

RESTAURANT chain Pancake House Inc. has spun off a new unit to sell packaged products under its own brand.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PHI said it has likewise taken a new investor to acquire 30 percent of the new unit called Pancake House Products Inc.

The stake was sold to a private Filipino investor, Jennifer Chua, for P30 million. The disclosure said Chua was not related to the company or any of its affiliates.

"In view of further developing the consumer brand Pancake House, the company intends to expand its revenue sources by developing a range of products that are popular with its customers such as pancake and waffle mixes, syrups and taco mixes and making these available at all Pancake House outlets, supermarkets and groceries nationwide," the disclosure said.

PHI said it was willing to sell up to a 40-percent stake in the new company and keep the remaining 60 percent.

Proceeds from the equity sale would be used to develop and market the products.

The new unit, PHPI, was established last July with an authorized capital stock of P1 million divided into 1 million common shares with a par value of P1. It had a subscribed and paid-in capital of P250,000.

The selling price of P30 million for the 30-percent stake in the new unit, PHI noted, was based on a total valuation of the market potential of all packaged products that the company intends to sell.

PHI, which is owned by the Lorenzo family, successfully debuted at the PSE late last year.

Court asked . . .

(From page B2)

developing nations for foreign investments that we desperately need for the country's sorely deficient infrastructure, which the country itself cannot finance through internally-generated funds," Philyards said.

"Other countries competing with the Philippines for such foreign investments will use and characterize the decision, rightly or wrongly, as a signal that foreign investments cannot be secure in the Philippines," it added.

In its decision, the high court directed the government to accept the offer of JG Summit Holdings Inc., the second highest bidder in the 1993 bidding for Philseco.

JG Summit offered P2.03 billion, while Philyards submitted a higher bid of P2.13 billion.

The Supreme Court decision reversed a Court-of-Appeals ruling that the right to top was valid.

JG Summit, the flagship company of the Gokongwei family and part of a consortium that participated in the Philseco sale, sought to annul the right of Philseco minority shareholder Kawasaki Heavy Industries to top the highest bid for the government's 87.7-percent stake in Philseco.

The government granted Kawasaki the right to top the highest bid in exchange for the Japanese' firm's agreement to waive its right of first refusal or right to acquire the government's stake in Philseco before anyone else.

BSP . . .

(From page B2)

liquidity and raised liquidity reserve requirements of commercial banks by four percentage points.

Monetary authorities raised banks' liquidity reserves by two percentage points twice in late July and early August.

From 7 percent, the liquidity reserves now stand at 11 percent, while the statutory reserves have been kept at 9 percent.

The four-percentage-point increase in reserves mopped up about P55 billion in excess money from the system that otherwise would have been used to speculate against the peso and could have raised inflation.

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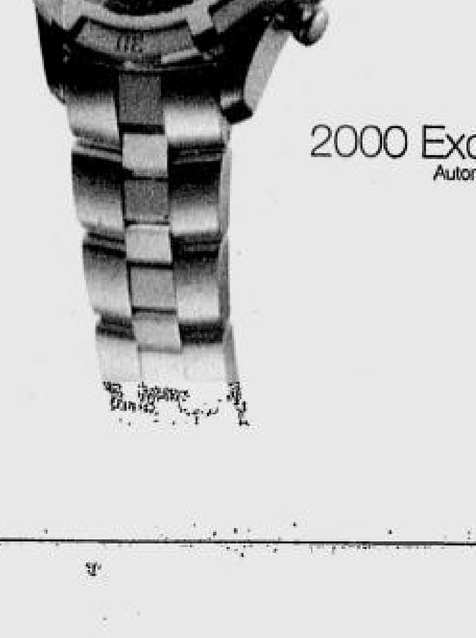

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Shouldn't the Senate probe the SSS?

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

INASMUCH as the Senate has apparently shifted its mission from legislation to investigation, as shown by its penchant to jump the gun on the judiciary and the Ombudsman on sensational crimes, we challenge the senators to focus their investigative passions and skills on the Social Security System, which appears to be duty-bound to do a lot of explanation to the people on many critical issues affecting its funds and operations.

As one of the 22.5 million private sector workers in this country who are compelled to build up the P181-billion total asset of the SSS, it is my right, as well as my duty, to know the answers to the following critical questions, which this column and thousands of concerned SSS members have been asking repeatedly. These questions should be answered directly, specifically and truthfully. They better be answered under oath before the Senate.

Controversial investments?

Is it true that last year, the SSS had a dismal performance because of heavy losses in high-risk stock transactions and the sharp increase in operating expenses driven mainly by indecent salary hikes given to SSS executives and managers? Is it true that principally, these losses include the highly controversial Equitable PCI Bank transactions involving P5 billion? Is it true that the SSS purchased the bank's share at P83.20 in January 2001 and the sale of the share dived to a measly P53 by March 30, causing the total decline from P15 billion to only P9.9 billion in three months.

These were asked by Newsbreak contributor Roel Landingin, and we are challenging the SSS to deny this under oath if it is not true. Landingin reported that the SSS net income fell by 70 percent last year, the lowest in many years mainly due to such questionable transactions in stocks. If this is not true, let the SSS PR boys hammer out a sworn denial.

Indecent salary hikes?

Is it true that while its income suffered and its stocks incurred heavy losses, SSS executives had a heyday receiving an untimely, if undeserved, salary hike given at a time where millions of Filipinos, many of whom are its members, suffer in hunger, poverty and deprivation? Was that windfall increase the one that included a salary of P350,000 a month for an EVP while the President of the Philippines receives only less than P300,000 a year?

Isn't it true that mainly because of that salary hikes, the operating costs of the SSS ballooned to a whopping P4.2 billion in 2000, nearly double from 1997's P2.3 billion? Isn't it a fact also that because of this, as of today, a tenth of our members contribution goes to the salaries of these guys?

High salary, low service?

Vis-à-vis such fantastic salaries, what is the quality of the SSS' services? What is your response to the comments of another Newsbreak writer, Miriam Go, who alleged that she filed her claim for maternity benefit four months before she delivered. Her reimbursement check was given only five months after her baby was born. Why can't the SSS do its basic duty speedily? Why can't it just do its main job?

Lack of service focus?

Instead of focusing on investments, why can't the SSS remain faithful to its main mission of helping its members? Why risk the people's money on very hazardous ventures? Along this line, how should the SSS explain to us its fiasco in the case of Belle Corp.? Didn't the SSS lose P143 million because what it acquired at P328.9 million is now worth only P185.9 million, or a par value of 65 centavos falling to 39 centavos? And what is the SSS doing in Belle, which is a gambling firm?

We raised multiple members' complaints in our July 28, 2000, column here, involving questionable condonation of loans to big businessmen while pressuring SSS members with foreclosures and criminal prosecution. We asked questions on lost SSS checks, delayed posting of remittances and processing of death benefits. We queried why a lady from Las Piñas was bullied with a threat of suit for P4.6 million for a loan of P50,000. Until now, the SSS has not answered.

For whom does the SSS exists?

Does the SSS exist for its lowly members, many of whom are earning only P250 a day but whose wages are compulsorily deducted P216.70 a month: P93.75 for Philhealth, P100 for Pag-Ibig and P216.70 for the BIR? Or does it exist for Equitable, for Belle and for its own very lucky executives?

Ferdinand Gaite of Newsbreak points out that the government does not own the SSS. We, the members, do. And we say that reform should be done by the Senate via legislation. Gaite proposes that the SSS be put in the hands of a board elected by the members, not appointed by the politicians. And we agree.

Shouldn't the Senate probe?

The unanswered questions about the SSS are more important than many other things that are now the subject of investigations by the Senate in aid of legislation. SSS funds are the blood money of millions of workers. The Philippine Retirement Insurance Commission reported that the SSS assets would start to deplete in 2003 as more money would be coming out than flowing in. The SSS will be bankrupt before we retire.

Article 184 of the Labor Code provides: "The Republic of the Philippines guarantees and accepts general responsibility for the solvency of the State Insurance Fund. In case of any deficiency, the same shall be covered by supplemental appropriation from the national government." Thus, you and I will cover for the SSS managers' extravagance and investment debacles.

SSS members, stand up

We, the SSS members as taxpayers, will answer for the losses incurred due to the fiascos in ventures that have been made without our consent. We will be bled again of hard-earned money to cover for the faults and gross negligence of our trust fund managers. If this is not cruel and unusual punishment, I don't know what is.

So, let us all rise in one voice and action to defend our rights within the bounds of law. And let our Senate take the first move by calling for a probe on the SSS. Let's summon these highly paid executives to justify their existence. And let's do it now. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)*

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MEGATRADE HALL, 5th LEVEL, BUILDING B
SM MEGAMALL
EDSA, MANDALUYONG CITY
SEPTEMBER 1-9, 2001 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM, DAILY
Hurry!!! Last 3 days!!!
Schedule of Special Events

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2001

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Diwa Science Showdown
Diwa Learning Systems Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Panel Discussion
"How to Deal with Library Donation".
Philippine Association of Academic and Research Libraries (PAARL)

1:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Seminar on
"The 3M in Library Information Science Education: Management, Money & Marketing"
Philippine Association of Teachers of Library Science (PATLS)

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M./Function Room A
Website Launch "nerdycarabao.com"
F & J de Jesus, Inc. & Asianware

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./ Function Rms. A & B
Powermark Book Club Launching
OMF Literature, Inc.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2001

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN/Function Rm. A
Product Launching
"Angelos and Haggadah"
Belgosa Bookstores Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching
"Tinig ng Darating at Iba pang Tula by Teo Baylen•Damdamin: Mga Piling Tula ni Iñigo ed. Regalado•Sa Tabi ng Dagat at Iba pang Tula by Idelfonso Santos•Sampagitang Walang Bango by Iñigo ed. Regalado•Grass Roots & Cadre in the Protest Movement by Vincent Boudreau•Corruption, the Boom and Bust of East Asia ed. by J. Edgardo Campos•Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures by Emmanuel Fernandez•Image to Meaning: Essays in Philippine Art by Alice Guillermo•People of Power, A Philippine Worldview of Spirit Encounters by John P. McAndrew•History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones by Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava•Magosaha: An Ethnography of the Tawi Tawi Sama Dilaut by H. Arlo Nimmo•The Philippine Revolution of 1896: Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Times edited by F. Rodao and Felice Noelle Rodriguez•National/Transnational: Subject Formation and Media in and on the Philippines By Rolando B. Tolentino"
Ateneo de Manila University Press

4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Si Pilandok sa Pulo ng Pawikan by Victoria Añonuevo illustrated by Kora Albano•Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola by Rene Villanueva illustraded by Ibarra Crisostomo•Ibong Adarna 2 by Roberto Alonzo illustrated by Jordan Santos•Bakit Matagal ang Sundo Ko? by Kristine Canon illustrated by Mariano Ching•Magnificent Benito and Two Front Teeth by Augie Rivera and Mike Rivera illustrated by Jason Moss•Sundalong Patpat 2 by Virgilio S. Almario illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero•Melchora Aquino by Rene Villanueva illustrated by Ferdinand Doctolero•Blue Day by Pipa Escalante illustrated by Abi Goy"
Adarna House

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M./Function Rm. A
Book Launching & Video Presentation
"E-Bookman: Book, Music and Personal Information in the Palm of Your Hand"
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6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
National Book Awards
Manila Critics Circle

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2001

4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M./Function Rm. B
Book Launching
"Marxism and Religion: A Fusion of Horizon by Virgilio A. Ojoy, OP•Mary, Seat of Wisdom: A Contemporary Reflection by Roland D. Mactal, OP•Everyday Sense of Existense in a Day by Fr. Jan Sareno•Justice, Patients' Rights, Psychoethics ed. by Fausto B. Gomez, OP & Dr. Anniela Yu-Soliven•Balagtas and His Nationalistic Literature by Dr. Johanna G. Hashim•Dalawampung Tula ng Pag-ibig ni Diosdado Macapagal ed. by Erli Mendoza and Michael Coroza•The Treasures of Lamon Bay by Dr. Frank Tejada•Nakatanim na Granada by Rebecca Añonuevo, Pangarap at Pangitain by Abdon M. Balde, Jr.•Fray Domingo de Salazar, First Bishop of the Philippines by Lucio Gutierrez, OP•Apples and Ampalaya by Augusto V. de Viana•Forensic Medicine by Dr. Teresita Sanchez"
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, Sept. 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	17,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	59.5	58	59	785,800
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	250
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	30.5	27.5	29	1,198,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	209	208	209	217,760
Philippine National Bank	53	53.5	53	53.5	650,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	19.25	18.5	18.75	31,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1460	1450	1460	850
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1150	1140	1150	1,210
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	32	32	32	32	21,300
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	650	640	650	570
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	535	515	535	270,200
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	160,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.03	40,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	32	31	31	135,700
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	46	44.5	45.5	1,100,000
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.72	1,401,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.96	2	1.94	2	524,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.37	0.3	0.37	820,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	112,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.14	1.14	107,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	205,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.75	90,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	58,500
RFM Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	41	39.5	41	111,400
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	54.5	55.5	222,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	100,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	2,623,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	277,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.25	1,800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	110,000
APC Group Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	3,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	51,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	30,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.56	1.52	1.54	1,458,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	109,500
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.125	0.14	0.125	0.135	3,700,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	190,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	3,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	5,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	1,420,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.29	16,350,000
Music Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	794,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.39	0.45	90,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5	72,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.34	80,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.27	1,290,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,000,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.78	150,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	754,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	170,000
Manila Jockey Club	19.25	19.25	19	19	2,500
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	32.5	32	32.5	208,200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	10,000,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	5,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	79,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.75	13,266,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	4,530,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	250,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.94	909,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	380,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	600,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.055	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	1,960,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	2,901,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	17,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	6,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	3,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	2,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,903,970	164,044,765.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	171,633,770	274,659,330.00
PRO	25,956,000	85,537,120.00
Mining	27,900,000	1,001,100.00
OIL	9,110,000	66,500.00
GRAND TOTALS:	237,508,740	525,323,815.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	518.51	UP 6.44
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,806.72	UP 38.65
PRO	497.79	UP 11.49
Mining	1,183.90	DOWN 0.61
OIL	1.42	DOWN 0.01
All Shares Index	757.48	UP 6.75
Composite	1,283.74	UP 29.41

NO. OF ADVANCES: 41; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 96; NO. OF TRADES: 2,200

DISCLOSURES

FORUM Pacific Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 25, 2 p.m., at the Makati Sports Club, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT and **China Banking Corp.** approved the dissolution of **CBC Venture Capital Corp.** to be effected through the shortening of the corporate existence.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. produced 15,596 ounces of gold, 187,077 pounds of copper and 52,725 ounces of silver during the month of August with an estimated value of P233.56.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Global Business Bank** approved the appointment of Ernesto Herrera as member of its advisory council effective Sept. 1.

* * *

ELECTED to the board of **First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.** were Paulino Soo, Jack Huang, Vicente Co Chien Jr., A. Bayani Tan, Jimmy Soo, Cecilio Pedro, Miguel Tan, Ma. Louisa Gonzales and Michael Albert Kahayon.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. bought 20,000 AMC shares at P2.02 per share on Sept. 5 for its stock buy-back program.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. confirmed that it entered into a service contract with **Alcatel** for its GSM 1800 network project.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed reports that **The Coca-Cola Co.** wil' [illegible] 's and **La Tondeña Distillers Inc.**'s 10 non-liquor brands for $84 [illegible] **Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.** will acquire the production asset[illegible] tions associated with both the water and powdered juice brands of SMC and LTDI for $57 million.

Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research

NIPPON PAINT PHILIPPINES, INC. ACQUIRES ISO 9002 CERTIFICATE

Humble beginnings

NIPPON Paint Philippines Inc (NPP) has been at the forefront of the paint industry for more than two decades. From its humble beginnings in a small plant in Pasay City way back in the mid-seventies, then in Taguig in the eighties, the company now boasts of a modern plant situated in a 4-hectare property inside the Light Industry and Science Park of the Philippines in Cabuayo, Laguna. Backed by more than 100 years of expertise by Asia's top paint company, Nippon Paint Co. Ltd. of Japan, NPP through the years, has gained a solid reputation as a reliable supplier of quality paint products in the Philippines.

Product line

It takes pride in providing its OEM car assemblers-customers with a complete line of high technology original paint products – the only one in the local paint industry. The same thing holds true for the other leading industrial customers such as those in the motorcycle, appliance, coil coating and other general industries. It also produces, among others, Pylox, the leading aerosol paint in the market today, Nippelac and Nax, the choice of painters for the auto-refinishing market, and Valspar, the number one wood finish in the country for decades. In recent years, the company launched its paint products for the decorative house paint market carrying Matex / Vinilex / Bodelac as brand names.

PON PAINT PHILIPPINES
ISO
AWARDING CERE
August 2

SGS Phils., Inc. General Manager David Horlock, awarding the ISO Certificate to NPP President Thomas Goh

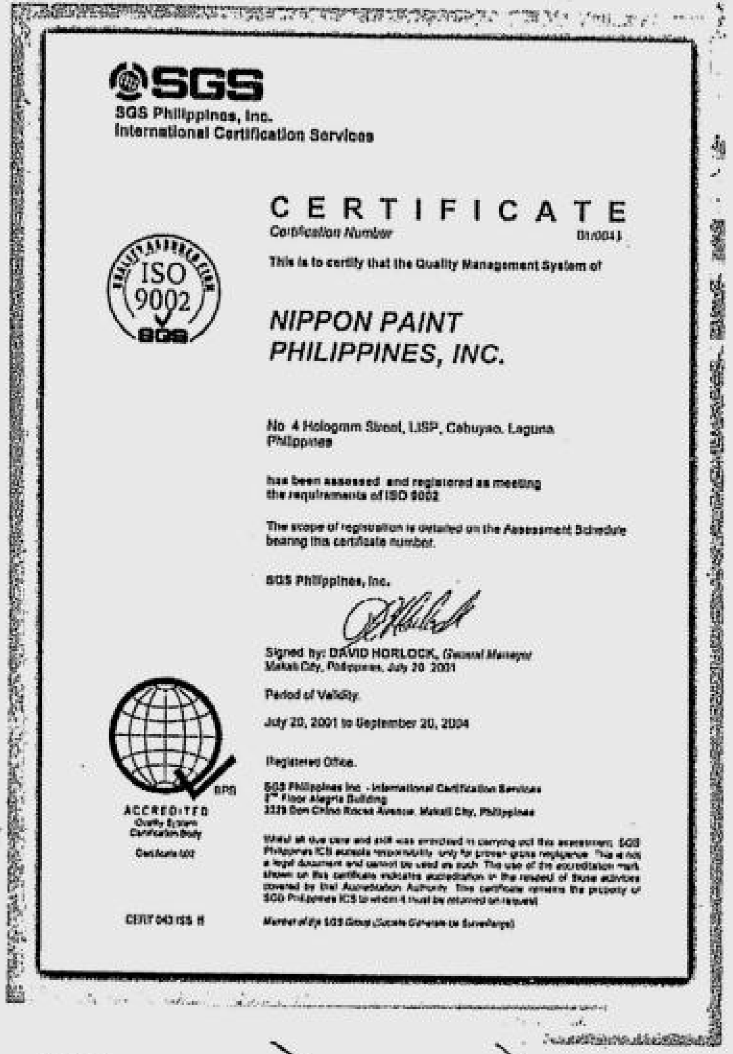
Quality award

Last August 24, 2001, Nippon Paint Philippines Inc. was finally conferred the ISO 9002 Certificate by SGS Philippines. The award assures NPP's customers of consistently high standards of performance. It serves as a testament to the Company's commitment to continuously provide quality paint products and services to its valued customers.

While the company looks back with pride on all its achievements, it also looks forward to meeting new challenges brought about by the fast-paced advancements in technology and the ever-evolving business environment. It is guided by a strong sense of professionalism to aim for the best in all its endeavors.

Employees and Business Partners

Nippon Paint Philippines Inc. draws its strength from all the people and the institutions that have trusted and supported its operations through the years. With its successful Certification, Nippon Paint Phils., Inc. would like to dedicate the Award to its Employees and Business Partners – the dealers, customers, suppliers and government agencies. And with globalization just around the corner, Nippon Paint Philippines Inc. will continue to count on its employees and business partners to make it a truly world-class organization. Mabuhay!



SGS
SGS Philippines, Inc.
International Certification Services

CERTIFICATE
Certification Number 01/0043

This is to certify that the Quality Management System of

NIPPON PAINT PHILIPPINES, INC.

No 4 Hologram Street, LISP, Cabuyao, Laguna
Philippines

has been assessed and registered as meeting the requirements of ISO 9002

The scope of registration is detailed on the Assessment Schedule bearing this certificate number.

SGS Philippines, Inc.

Signed by: DAVID HORLOCK, *General Manager*
Makati City, Philippines, July 20 2001

Period of Validity:

July 20, 2001 to September 20, 2004

Registered Office.

SGS Philippines Inc. - International Certification Services
2nd Floor Alegria Building
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ACCREDITED
Quality System Certification Body

ISO 9002
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$500-M DEBT REFINANCING

PLDT firms up borrowing plan

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has firmed up a debt-refinancing program worth up to $500 million.

Industry sources disclosed that PLDT has recently obtained a $150 million bridge financing facility from British bank HSBC Plc. to lengthen its debt maturity profile.

At the same time, the sources said PLDT had decided to push through with the flotation of $300 million to $500 million worth of 10-year Eurobonds within the month.

HSBC was likewise mandated to underwrite the issuance jointly with Credit Suisse First Boston.

The bond float comes despite the seeming unfavorable market conditions arising from jitters over Argentina's debt woes.

PLDT will be the first Philippine borrower to tap the capital market this year, after the government itself was unable to complete an earlier float.

Other sources said PLDT was taking great risk in braving the market at this time when spreads on Philippine issues over US Treasuries have sharply widened.

The mandate given to HSBC and CSFB is up to $500 million, the level earlier approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, but sources said PLDT would be content with $300 million.

PLDT has some debt obligations whose maturity would bunch up in the next three to four years and would have to be replaced with longer-term debt instruments.

Other sources had said that PLDT wanted to raise up to $900 million and would likely tap the capital market on several instances rather than source these requirements under a one-shot deal.

The debt level of PLDT and its subsidiaries currently stood at around $3.5.billion as of June 2001, of which $2.9 billion represented PLDT's own borrowings.

Meanwhile, to fund the expansion requirements of its wireless unit Smart Communications Inc., PLDT is continuing its talks with a unit of former state telecommunications monopoly Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. for fresh investments in Smart.

NTT DoCoMo, a leader in wireless technology, is Japan's biggest company in terms of market capitalization. It has been the best performer among telecom stocks worldwide since the beginning of the year, buoyed by the phenomenal growth of its I-mode mobile Internet service.

PLDT has an existing relationship with the NTT group, which owns 15 percent of its outstanding common shares.

Gov't approves reduction of tariffs on 300 products

THE MACAPAGAL administration has approved tariff cuts on 300 products, including 29 unprocessed agricultural products, as part of the country's compliance with the Asean Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) program.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the products approved for tariff cuts were not produced locally or have negligible imports from Asean countries or have duties of less than 11 percent.

These products included soap, textiles, belts and handbags as well as 29 unprocessed agricultural products that Roxas did not identify. Also included were several items in the exclusion list such as old coins, playing cards and used clothes. Roxas said all of these products went through public hearings before they were approved for tariff cuts.

Roxas said these tariff cuts were long overdue since the government had to defer these moves last year to help local industries cope with the political and economic crisis.

With this batch of tariff reduction, Roxas said the Philippines would have 85 percent of its tariff product lines within the zero- to 5-percent tariff range this year. Still, Roxas said the Philippines would be short of its commitment to put 90 percent of its products below 6-percent tariff this year.

Roxas said the Philippines was in the same boat as Thailand because the latter still had less than 90 percent of its products within the mandatory tariff range. He said Malaysia and Indonesia were the pacesetters in the region in terms of compliance, having fulfilled their commitments ahead of schedule.

The Philippines and other Asean members agreed in 1999 to accelerate the tariff cut schedules as part of bold measures adopted to spur the region's recovery from the 1997 financial crisis. The implementation of the Asean Free Trade Area was advanced from end-2003 to end-2002.

Roxas said these tariff cuts would be implemented through an executive order to be issued within the next 10 days or by the time Congress is in recess.

Gov't allots ₱4.27B for SGS payment

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has earmarked P4.27 billion in its 2002 budget to pay its remaining obligations with Geneva-based imports inspector Societe Generale de Surveillance.

Based on a DOF document, the amount has been set aside to pay the pre-shipment inspector for services rendered from late 1998 to the first quarter of 2000.

A finance official said that SGS has claimed that the government owed it about P5.2 billion for services rendered since September 1998.

The imports checker had billed the government another P1 billion from January to March 2000 when the contract that was supposed to expire in end-1999 was extended for another quarter.

SGS has requested the finance department to settle the obligations but the amount was not included in the 2001 budget.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was scheduled to defend before a budget hearing in Congress yesterday the inclusion of the payment to SGS as part of the appropriations for next year.

The government ended in March 2000 the Swiss inspector's $100-million-a-year, 12-year contract and allowed the Bureau of Customs to take over the pre-shipment inspection.

Camacho, however, had asked the DOF and the Customs to evaluate whether there was a need to hire an imports checker. The finance chief said SGS and several other companies have submitted their proposals to the DOF.

The finance chief said that if the government were to engage the services of a pre-shipment inspector anew, the importers would have to pay for it.

During the 12 years that SGS handled the pre-shipment for the Bureau of Customs, the government had paid for the services of the Swiss firm.

Business groups believed that without a third-party imports inspector, smuggling could worsen as importers may deliberately or unwittingly misdeclare the value of their imports as there was no verification of the receipts abroad.

During the time of Estrada, the Customs accredited 120 top importing companies for the "super green lane." Importers using the express lane would simply declare their imports and the Customs would have to honor their statements.

SGS, for its part, had said that it has generated P67.82 billion in additional revenue for the government since its

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O'Neill says US economy set for recovery

WASHINGTON—US Treasury Paul O'Neill said Wednesday the US economy, bolstered by tax cuts, was on track for recovery this year before posting at least 2.5 to 3 percent growth in 2002.

"Our economy is sound and I look forward to a rising growth path in the months ahead and through 2002," O'Neill told a news conference before leaving Thursday on a weeklong trip to China and Japan.

Growth in gross domestic product (GDP) during 2002 would likely be between 2.5 and 3.0 percent next year, and possibly a little more, he said.

US manufacturers may be recovering from their slump, the treasury secretary said, citing a rise in the National Association of Purchasing Management (NAPM) index the previous day.

The closely watched NAPM indicator rose by a surprise 4.3 points to 47.9 in August, the biggest rise in five years.

"We have had good news recently in the NAPM report, indicating that manufacturing may be turning around already," O'Neill said.

Eighty percent of economists were forecasting US growth next year of 2.5 to 3.5 percent, he added.

Asked what he would tell Japanese officials about the US outlook, O'Neill said: "It is always a good idea to tell the truth and the truth is that we seem to be stabilized, we seem to be improving."

Tax rebate checks landing in people's mailboxes, the first stage of US President George W. Bush's 11-year, $1.35-trillion tax cut, would fuel growth, O'Neill said.

He ridiculed people asking why the tax rebates, which began to arrive in US homes around July 23, failed to have more of an impact on July consumer spending, which was relatively flat.

"It is very reminiscent to me of the farmer who pulls up his turnips every day to see if they are growing," O'Neill said.

But the treasury secretary said the rebate checks would inject $40 billion into the economy in less than three months, which translated into an annualized impact of $200 billion.

"I think we will see some of the effects from it and that the economy will run at a higher rate because of it," he added. "I cannot find anyone who will dispute that logic."

Asked about the US pursuit of a strong dollar, O'Neill said the policy remained unchanged. "Strong dollar policy, good, continuous," he said. There was "no intent to change it," he added.

He refused to be drawn further on the question. *AFP*

Japan considering jobs fund to fight recession

TOKYO—Japan's ruling coalition wants to set up a 2 trillion yen ($16.6 billion) fund to battle rising unemployment and will make jobs the centerpiece of a possible extra budget, a draft policy proposal showed on Thursday.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, said the tripartite coalition would consider crafting an extra budget after seeing Friday's April-June GDP figures, which are widely expected to show the economy contracted sharply in the quarter.

"We must not allow an economic contraction over the full fiscal year," the draft said. "Thus after seeing gross domestic product and other data, we will consider bold and flexible economic measures including formulating an extra budget."

Speculation has been rife in recent weeks that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's government will compile an extra budget in a bid to drag the economy from the brink of its fourth recession in a decade.

Pressure to do so has increased in the wake of data showing Japan's jobless rate hit a record 5.0 percent in July, and with Tokyo's key Nikkei share average plumbing 17-year troughs.

Koizumi has so far denied any decision has been made on an extra spending package. But he has said jobs measures were at the top of his to-do list.

With some of Koizumi's pledged structural reforms likely to put more people out of work in the short-term, employment has become a hot topic. Plans to rein in the budget deficit and accelerate the disposal of bad loans held by banks would be among the most painful.

Public works

Japan's ruling parties—Koizumi's Liberal Democratic Party, the New Komeito and the Conservatives—said any extra budget should not be focused on conventional public works projects, long criticized as pork-barrel spending and a waste of money.

The 10 emergency spending packages over the last decade, consisting primarily of public works expenditure, have boosted Japan's government debt to 130 percent of GDP, the worst in the industrial world.

But they have failed to put the economy on track to sustainable recovery.

The parties said a new package should instead be centered on jobs, urban development, technology and the environment—measures that would help push forward Koizumi's reform policies. *Reuters*

China moves closer to WTO membership

GENEVA—China could be cleared to join the World Trade Organization next week if the United States and the European Union can settle their differences over the future of an American insurance company, according to an expert.

The WTO group handling China's application will meet on Sept. 11 to 13 to try to settle the final details of the agreement establishing the terms for China to join the organization, which sets rules on international trade. China has been trying to join the WTO for 15 years.

"I don't think even the insiders know for sure whether they are going to resolve every detail," Nicholas Lardy, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said Wednesday.

In Brussels, Belgium, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji joined European Union leaders Wednesday in predicting China would soon iron out the last obstacles to get approval in November for entry in the World Trade Organization.

Speaking after the annual EU-China summit, Zhu said the Europeans had assured him they would try to work out a dispute with the United States over access to the Chinese insurance market which has stalled finalization of China's entry terms.

Diplomats in Geneva said WTO members wanted to hash out the details next week to ensure they could formally approve China's membership in a splash of publicity at a meeting of trade ministers in Doha, Qatar, in November.

If China is approved next week, the WTO members plan to work on clearing Taiwan for membership. The working party on Taiwan will meet on Sept. 14. *AP*

Apec meets to spur growth

SUZHOU, China—Top Asia-Pacific economic officials launched talks on Thursday on how to combat the global economic slowdown, hoping the United States will help kick start growth.

Washington, however, said ahead of the Apec meetings that while the U.S. economy should pick up in coming months, Asian countries would have to do their part and called on Japan to take decisive action to end its economic malaise.

China, host of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meetings this year, said the four days of talks in Suzhou would focus on spurring sustainable growth and reform in ways that satisfy the diverse economies in the 21-member group.

Wang Jun, a senior official in China's Ministry of Finance, laid out the agenda at a news conference ahead of the talks, at which deputy ministers and central bankers will forge an agenda for the weekend meeting of Apec finance ministers.

"With joint efforts of all Apec economies, the meeting will contribute to supporting stable economic growth, preventing financial crisis, expanding economic development and cooperative exchanges among all economies for the prosperity and stability of the region," Wang said. *Reuters*

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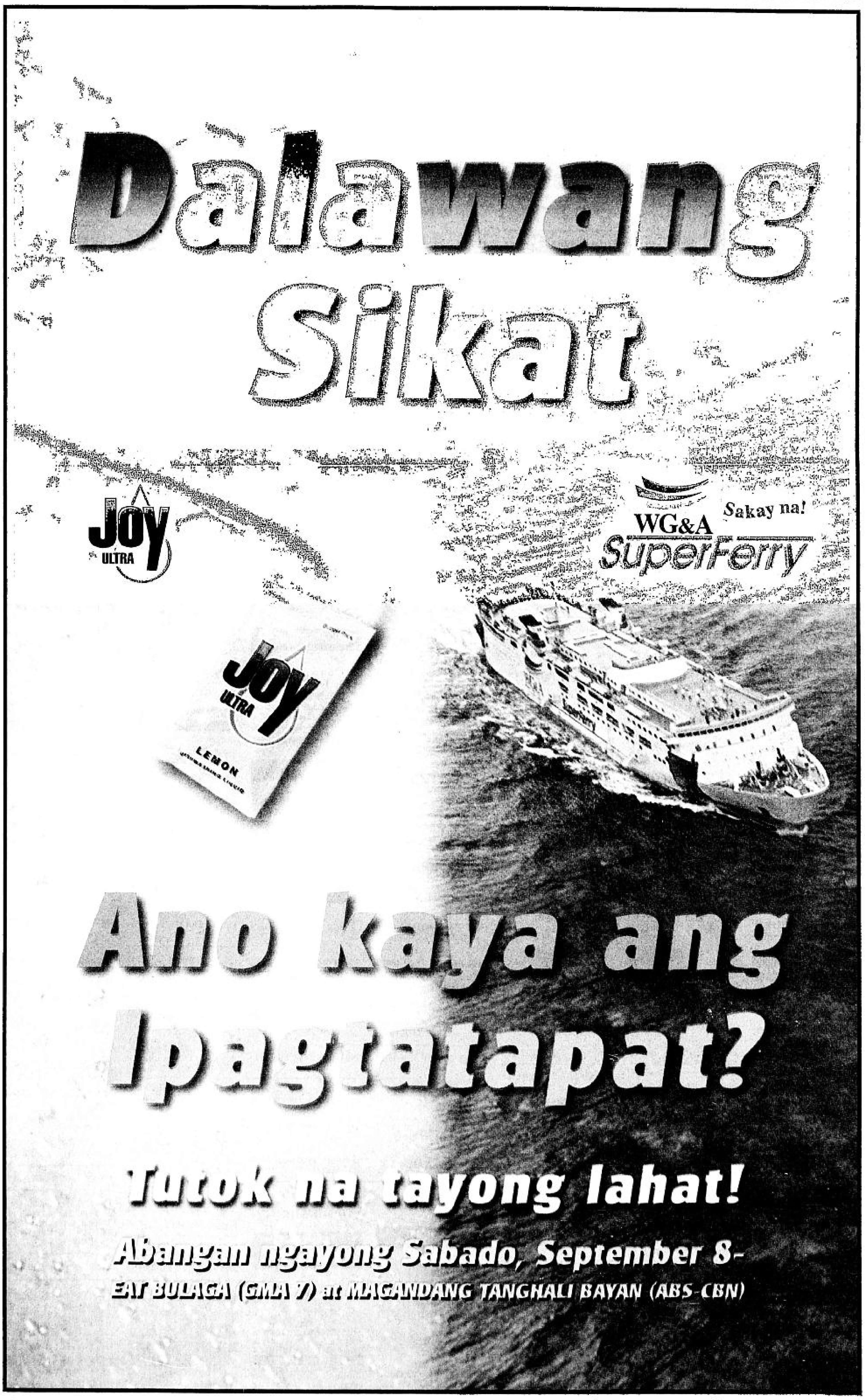
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• 8 ofc Staff•9168033 Ace

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Clerk Sec. 7136116 Ruth

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that ENGR. IAN YUL H. AGRIPO, proprietor of I. AGRIPO CONSTRUCTION w/ PCAB license No. 25556 of Valencia City, Bukidnon, has changed his trade name to KEZ ENTERPRISES.

(PDI--Sept. 7, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **CORAZON S. TOLENTINO** was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc.#340, Page #70, Book #42, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Lope M. Velasco of Mla.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

The public is hereby notified that MARIA ELENA LUMAGBAS UY will file under RA9048 for change of name in the birth certificate as MA. LINDA UY. Any person having knowledge or claiming interest by said petition may file his written opposition with NSO within 10 calendar days
(PDI-Sept. 1 & 7, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of ANSCOR Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO.** If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

Notice is given on the loss of PICOP Stock Certificates issued to **Col. GERONIMO G. SABELLANO.** If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31 & Sept. 7, 2001)

Notice is hereby given the loss of PCIBank Stock Cert. Nos. 2070, 5280 & 27224 w/ 320; 1000; & 3125 Shares issued on 24 Nov. 1983, 20 Jan 1987 & 30 April 1993, respectively under the name of Victoriano C. Raymundo. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Sept. 7,14 & 21,2001)

Stock Cert. #61493 for 1,300 shares issued by SM PRIME to Lawa, Inc. has been lost.
(PDI-Sept. 7, 14 & 21, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x)..

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following employees are no longer connected with International Skill Development, Inc. (ISD) and any transaction entered into by the said individuals shall not, for all legal intents and purposes, be binding to ISD:

Joel Canillo
Maricel Escudero
Anna Jann C. Mugas

The above named employees have no pending case whether administrative, civil or criminal and that this notice is being published in compliance with POEA Rules and Regulations in connection with ISD application for license renewal.

International Skill Development, Inc.
5439 Curie Street, Palanan, Makati City
Phone Nos. 551-7452, 551-7491, 833-1242
Fax No. 551-9675

(PDI - Sept. 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B

MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

August 31, 2001

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended, in correlation with CAO 5-90 dated July 17, 1990, as implemented by CMO 59-90 dated September 3, 1990, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding), on September 7, 14, 21, 28, 2001 from 1:30 PM until terminated at the 2nd Floor, Customs Hearing Room, MICP, North Harbor, Manila, the herein described articles:

> "USED AUTO AND TRUCK REPLACEMENT PARTS, SONY TAPE DISPLAY STAND, PEBBLES, TIRES, ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES, RTW'S, ANIMAL FEEDS, ELECTRONICS, FROZEN PORK AND CHICKEN, USED PERSONAL EFFECTS AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS, USED APPLIANCES, DARTBOARDS, SULFURIC ACID, HESCO DEX SUPER 400 & PLASTIC SCREEN, DART BOARD, BED MATTRESS, VERMICELLI, COCOA AND MANY INTERESTING ITEMS."

For particulars, please see or contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 245-4101 local 2283.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – Sept. 7, 2001)

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MAKATI
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811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

NOTICE OF LOSS

Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines), Inc. hereby gives notice that its Official Receipt (O.R.) Booklet with Series Nos. 0201 - 0250 has been lost. Any and all transactions covered by the specified O.R. Nos. will not be honored by Sandvik Tamrock (Philippines), Inc.

TAMROCK SANDVIK

Tel. No. (63-2) 850-1554 / Fax No. (63-2) 850-1556

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Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
TEL. NOS. (047) 252-4270*4214*4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4284

September 5, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

AUDIO SOUND SYSTEM WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
LIGHTING FIXTURE FOR THE PROPOSED PAVILLION-BOARDWALK
ONE (1) UN. DEFIBRILLATOR WITH COMPLETE ACCESSORIES
ONE (1) UN. ELECTRO CARDIO GRAPH (ECG) MACHINE

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Product
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **September 14, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-Bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR**
Secretary, BAC

(PDI – Sept. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

National Power Corporation

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Asset Disposal Project

INVITATION TO BID

for the Disposal through Sale of

2 x 100 MW POWER BARGES

"as is, where is"

DATE OF BIDDING: **SEPTEMBER 25, 2001**

The National Power Corporation of the Philippines invites interested parties to bid for the following NPC Power Barges on an "as is, where is" basis:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	MIN. BID PRICE
LOT 1 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-117 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Bgy. Sta. Ana, Nasipit, Agusan Del Norte.	US $ 85.0 M
LOT 2 - 100 MW POWER BARGE PB-118 consisting of two (2) x 50 MW MAN B&W Diesel Engine, type: 12K90MC-S; 2 units 59,016 KVA Generators at 13.8 KV, 60 Hz; nominal barge output: 100 MW at 13.8 KV; including auxiliaries and corresponding spare parts, located at Maco, Davao Del Norte	US $ 85.0 M

Interested eligible bidders may obtain bidding documents and technical specifications upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand US Dollars (US$2,000.00)** at the Office of the Asset Disposal Project, 3rd Floor, Building No.1, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

A pre-bid conference shall be held at 10:00 AM on **September 20, 2001** at the NPC Solarium, Building 1, NPC Head Office, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives at 2:00 PM on **September 25, 2001** at NPC Diliman Office. Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Bond of not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein, and to accept only such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Government.

Additional information may be obtained from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad Jr. or Mr. Levi C. Arabelo at telephone nos. (632) 921-3382 / (632) 924-5384 and (632) 922-3370, respectively, and at fax no. (632) 921-2514.

(Sgd.) **RIZALINO G. SANTOS**
Chairman, Task Force for the Sale of
100 MW Power Barge PB-117 AND PB-118

(PDI -- Sept. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education, Culture, and Sports
Third Elementary Education Project

Invitation for Bids

Date: August 31, 2001
Loan No. 4108-PH
IFB No. P1SU-CO/172001-WB

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and delivery of School Furniture to Selected Public Elementary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), Central Project Implementation Support Unit (CPISU) for Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture to selected public elementary schools in the Philippines.
3. For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply or selling and distribution or delivery of school furniture. The Purchaser will grant a margin of preference to goods manufactured in the Philippines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign Assisted Projects (BAC-FAPs), Ground Floor Rizal Bldg. II, DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. # 632-1361 local 2085 or 636-6542, *http://www.decs.gov.ph.*
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **August 31, 2001**, upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).
6. The provisions in the Instruction to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods*, January 1995, revised March 2000.
7. Bids must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines, on or before 10:00 A.M. on October 23, 2001, and must be accompanied by a security of not less than two percent (2%) of total bid price.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on October 23, 2001 at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, I, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
9. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 18, 2001**, 10:00 a.m., at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. PANGAN**
Undersecretary and Chairman
DECS-BAC

(PDI--Sept. 3, 5 & 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-50-57 * 372-50-43
Fax Nos. 372-50-48 * 372-50-61

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of for the following items not later than 2:00 PM on **September 20, 2001.**

ITEMS TO BID:

1	unit	Digital copier*
1	unit	Automatic can sealer*
10	units	Paddlewheels*
1	unit	Refrigerator*
1	unit	Root blower*
2	units	Air-conditions
3	sets	Upgrading of computer
6	units	Computer, RIV#1603, 127 & 1493
	-	Various Fishing nets and twine*
	-	Various supplies and materials for Bottom Trawl Gears*
	-	Various fishing supplies and materials
	-	Various Construction Supplies and Materials
10	pcs.	Water heater with dial temperature*
	-	Various Lab. Chemical, RIV#1045, 1044 & 1043*

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photo copies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.**
Director

(PDI -- Sept. 7, 2001)

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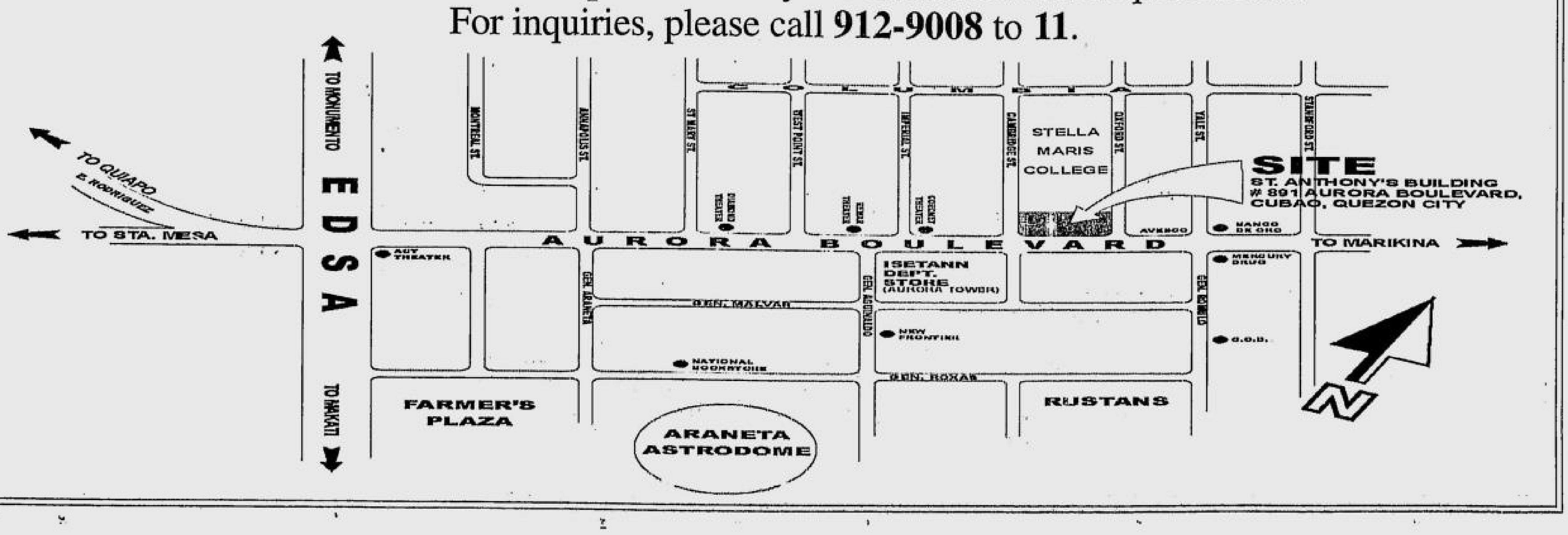

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Rosario Zita Sarte Zapanta

of Polangui, Albay

peacefully joined her Creator
and re-joined her father Dr. Jose A. Zapanta
on September 5, 2001.

Her bereaved mother **Charito Sarte Zapanta**; sisters **Dr. Erleen Agnes Jaucian** and **Marilou Teresita (Nenette) Lee**; brother **Ricardo Jose II (Nonoy)**; brothers- and sister-in-law **Mayor Gerry R. Jaucian**, **Samuel Z. Lee** and **Michie Ribaya Zapanta**; nieces and nephews **Joanne Ching Tan**, **Gerard**, **Jungie**, **Twinkle**, **KT**, and **Koko Jaucian**, **Ana** and **Paola Zapanta**, and **Samantha Lee**; great-nieces **Earl**, **Claudine** and **Ashley Ching Tan**; aunts, uncles and other relatives, request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Zapanta residence, Basud, Polangui, Albay. Funeral Mass will be on Monday, September 10, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the St. Peter and Paul Parish Church, Polangui.

Interment will follow at the Polangui Catholic Cemetery.

Whoever serves
Me must follow
Me; and where I
am, my servant
also will be.
John 12:16

CONCEPCION BAQUISAL DAVID

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 29, 2001
at the age of 61 in Daly City, Cal., U.S.A.

Her bereaved husband **Ed**, brothers, sisters and in-laws - **Ben**, **Lita**, **Rory**, **Jojo & Luz**, **Toots & Fely** and **Charito**, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at #26 Naranghita St., Project 2, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 9, at 2:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MYRON C. PAPA

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 16, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, gave donations to the Orphanage of Casa Miani, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, and those who, in countless other ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Col. Feliberto B. Cavosora, (Ret.)

(Aug. 22, 1928 - July 30, 2001)

thank you all for your prayers, Mass offerings, messages of sympathy, flowers, donations, loving presence and kind support.

We also thank God for the gift of Bert, beloved son and brother, husband and father, officer and gentleman, actuary and war veteran, colleague and friend.

LYDIA A. ALCORANO

1936-2001

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 1, 2001.

Her bereaved husband **LUMINADOR A. ALCORANO**; daughters **NANCY ALCORANO**, **MONETTE A. BESANA** and **LIZA A. MISAGAL**; sons **EDUARDO**, **WENEFREDO** and **HERNANI**; daughters-in-law **SOL**, **CHAT** and **NANCY**; sons-in-law **ART V. BESANA** and **ERICKSON MISAGAL** and grandchildren **EDMAR**, **GENEVA**, **HAZEL GRACE**, **CYRIL**, **HANNIBAL**, **HANNAH MAE**, **PATRICIA ANNE NEVA** and **JOHN ANGELO CLARENCE** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Lawa-an, Roxas City, Capiz.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA,
Assistant Editor

Advanced home security in RP

DO you have the right security system for your home?

Sequtech Corp., the emerging leader in security systems, introduces Powermax – the most advanced home security system to guard your home.

Made in Israel by its top manufacturer of sophisticated home security systems and technologies Visonic Ltd., Powermax is the most reliable in the market today.

"Reliability is the name of the game. Israel is number one in security so you can be sure of the system's quality," says Sequtech Corp. president Patrick Antonio. Powermax is the same system that is being used to guard the tomb of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Powermax, adds company executive officer Tony Antonio, fits the need of the new market because it is wireless and easy to install. It is the only security system that boasts of a three-in-one feature: it integrates security, home automation and communication in one beautiful package.

Powermax consists of a console, or main control center, that can be installed anywhere in the house, and sensors which can be attached in strategic places of the house. The system can cover as much as 29 areas of the house. The sensors are tamperproof – the sensors or system itself sets off an alarm when tapered. It is fully supervised, has a back-up battery and a full voice prompt which tells which zone is affected.

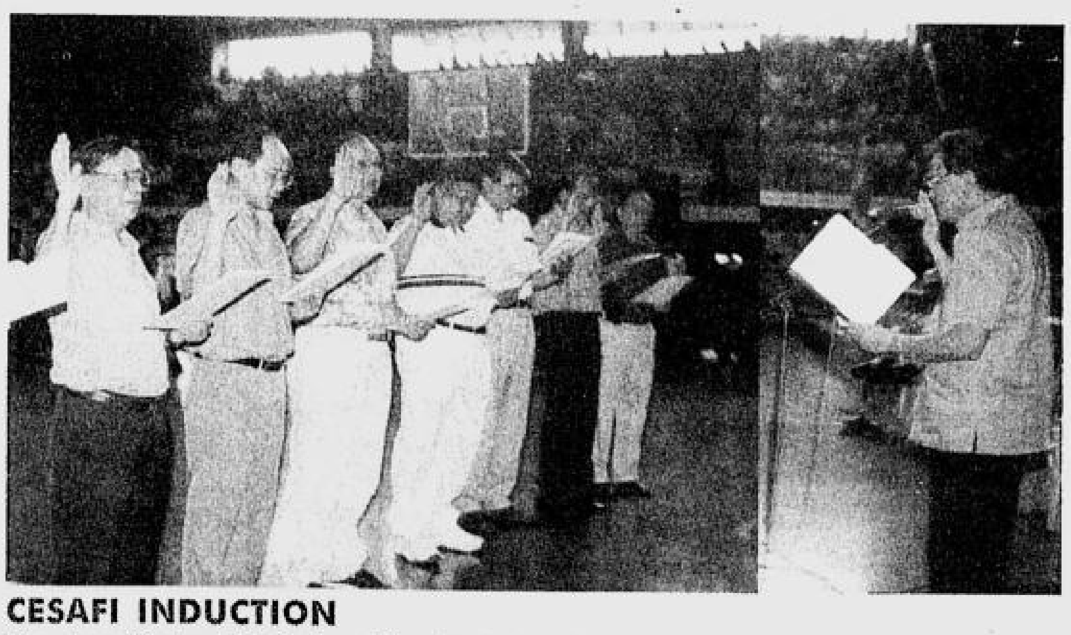
Its dialer feature allows the user to program landline and cellular phone numbers, including those of the village security, which the system automatically calls in case of intrusion or emergency. It can also keep track of the user and call him up via the Follow-Me feature.

To arm or disarm the system, Powermax can be programmed either manually through the keypad or remotely through a cellphone. It has eight user codes, with Code No. 1 serving as master code assigned to the head of the family.

Codes 5 to 8 constitute the latchkey mode and are assigned to family members. When a latchkey user disarms the system, a message is sent to the holder of the master code via his pager or cellphone. When the latchkey message is activated, the parents and their children can open a 2-way communication through a touch-tone phone.

The system also serves as a robotic security with its 100-event log feature, which records the past 100 events for retrieval later--helpful for homeowners who want to know movements that took place in the house while they were away. Powermax is perfect not just for homes but for offices as well. It is a must in large venues such as malls, commercial and industrial centers where security can't be sufficiently covered by roving personnel.

For inquiries, call Sequtech Corp. at 845-3444.



CESAFI INDUCTION

Rep. Jose "Dodong" R. Gullas of the 1st district of Cebu Province (right) swore into office the first set of officers of the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation Inc. last Sunday at the USC gym. The Cesafi replaces the Cebu Amateur Athletic Association, which Gullas headed in 1999. Sworn into office were (from left) lawyer Teodoro Diez of Velez College as director, Fr. Francisco Estepa of USC as treasurer, lawyer Ronald Duterte of USP as secretary, Fr. Walthrode Conde of USJ-R as president, engineer Oscar Tuazon of Cebu Doctor's College as vice president, Gregorio Escario of CIT as auditor and lawyer Augusto Go of UC as PRO.

SIA awards Soroptimist International of Bataan grant to improve provincial women detention cell

The Soroptomist International of Bataan, a volunteer service organization for women in business, management and the profession, will receive a $4,500 grant from the Soroptimist International of the Americas. This will be used for the improvement of the women detention cell at the provincial jail of which the physical improvement will protect them from sexual harassment, secure their personal privacy and provide for their basic hygienic needs. This effort will enhance the reformatory program of the NGOs and Church's prison ministry program.

Bataan Soroptimists will use the "Making A Difference for Women" grant toward building a simple but functional new wing which will accommodate 10-15 women detainees with basic provisions of bedroom, toilet and bath, laundry area, a small kitchen, receiving room and study or function audio-visual aid to help in their rehabilitation activities.

Due to lack of financial assistance, the detained 10 women are crowded in one room at Selda 14, which is along the male prison area. They do their things together without distinction of gender. Unwanted pregnancies have resulted from this setup.

Bataan Soroptimist will continue to co-network and be a lead agency in protecting these women. Rev. Fr. Alfred Artillaga and other religious institutions have joined this effort.

Founded in 1983, Soroptimist International of Bataan is part of Soroptimist International of the Americas, headquartered at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

MFI outstanding teachers

TWELVE teachers from different parts of the country were chosen as outstanding teachers for 2001 by the Metrobank Foundation. The names of the awardees were released after the final board of judges for the search led by chair Senator Renato L. Cayetano and co-chair Supreme Court Justice Josue N. Bellosillo held a series of interviews with the finalists. The awardees are Ninie C. del Rosario, Lavina P. Laforga, Jean B. Borlagdan, Carmen V. Salazar, Johann C. Cawaling, Evelyn B. Caja, Shirley R. Jusayan, Benjamin D. Paragas, Gersim S. Lumintac, Dr. Ricardo G. Abad, Dr. Graciano P. Yumul Jr., Dr. Ma. Nuria B. Castells. During the awarding ceremonies on Sept. 7, each outstanding teacher will receive a trophy, a gold medal and a cash prize of P135,000, of which P110,000 will go to the awardee, while P25,000 will go to the awardee's school for its faculty development program.

BITS & Clips

8th national confab on statistics

AFTER seven successful conventions, the 8th National Convention on Statistics (NCS), which is organized by the Philippine Statistical System (PSS) through the National Statistical Coordination Board (NCSB), will be held on Oct. 1 and 2 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. The two-day special celebration will coincide with the opening of the 12th National Statistics Month (NSM). For further details, access the NSCB website at www.nscb.gov.ph or call Chita S. Marzan at 897-2170, 890-3135, 897-1773 and 890-9404 or e-mail cs.marzan@nscb.gov.ph

Cigar-rolling event in Manila

SWEDISH Match and Ott Louie Phils. Inc. formally presents General Cigars "Macanudo" Dominican cigar rolling demonstration. Meet Senora Alicia Mercedes, the master lady cigar roller and Maestro Bruce Lewis, a cigar guru from Sept. 12 to 16 at renowned cigar bars in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu. Both cigar experts would be producing cigars in a traditional fashion, totally by hand, without the use of forms or any mechanical aids. Learn from the experts at the following establishments: Sept. 12, Kipling, Mandarin Hotel; Sept. 13, Churchill, Edsa Plaza Hotel and The Humidor, Sept. 14, Martis, The Enterprise and Che, Rockwell; Sept. 15, Forth and Tay, New World Hotel; and on Sept. 16, The Tinderbox, Banilad Cebu.

Family Fun Day with E. Excel

E. EXCEL International, Phils. Inc. will be holding a family fun day activity this Sept. 9 at the NBC Tent, The Fort, Makati City. The event is open to everybody and will include a mini-Olympics and exciting parlor games. The Family Fun Day is E. Excel's special way of thanking the Filipino public for its continued support of E. Excel products such as its functional health foods and skin care line.

TotalFinalElf joins Engineering Expo

TOTALFINALELF Philippines Corp. (TotalFinalElf Phils.) will be one of the major sponsors at the ongoing 2001 Engineering Exposition scheduled until Sept. 8 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City. Carrying the theme "Millennium Partnership of Engineering and Technology Associations," the exposition is this year's most prestigious and largest gathering of engineers and technical practitioners representing industry and technology. TotalFinalElf Phils. showcases its capability to supply the wide range of requirements of the industrial and technical seotor.

MALLS provide a good source for generating new credit cardholders.

Century-old bank makes a 'red' mark on women

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

HSBC
5447 8888 8888 8888
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KRISTINE SANTILLAN
MasterCard

THE FILIPINA has certainly come a long way—a 125-year-old foreign bank has launched a card only for her and available only in the Philippines.

HSBC, the British bank, has come up with its Red MasterCard, which is exclusively for women only.

The key in the decision to come up with a "for women only" product was the discovery that in the Philippines, 60 percent of the "credit cardable" market is composed of women, says Laine Santana, the HSBC's manager for public affairs.

Santana says the bank will focus its communication efforts and delivery channels in the next six months to selling the card. It has opted to use the malls as the initial venue of its marketing efforts.

Santana explains that the rationale for its strategy is that 60 percent of its credit card sales came from the malls.

Its marketing line for the card is that it is the first and only credit card for "real women with real needs":

It took the bank some four months to develop the Red MasterCard. It conducted focus group discussions and discovered that women give importance to insurance and help benefits.

This prompted the bank to include features on these areas in the card.

Red MasterCard cardholders get discounts in Healthway Clinics. There is also a life insurance policy with female cancer rider from Philamlife for Red Matercard holders that is available at special premium rates and paid monthly through the credit card.

The card provides discounts at certain shops like John Robert Powers, Bayo, Perk Body Card, Manel's, The Spa and Discovery Spa.

The color red was chosen because according to Laine, the color exhibits power and exudes confidence.

She says that HSBC was actually a late comer in the credit card market. During the start of 2000, they only had 50,000 credit card holders. But at present they have 200,000 cardholders, a four-fold increase.

Santana admits that the credit card market has been growing the past two years. Other banks support this sentiment. Bankers have noted that during hard economic times, consumers turn towards credit to pay for their needs.

Credit cards provide them the means to buy the goods without immediately shelling out cash and at the same time enable them to pay at terms they can afford.

But with the increased use of credit cards, there have also been an increase in delinquency in card payments, which led some banks to hire collecting agents who get a percentage of the amount collected.

The Red MasterCard is targeted for females, aged 21 to 65 years old; are employed or running her own business for three years, has an annual gross income of P180,000 and resides in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, Pampanga.

It has all the features of an international credit card. HSBC currently has a program for applicants to win a P500,000 shopping for one day at Rustan's department store.

E-filing and e-payment of taxes

BY JOANN C. CAÑETE
Tax Division, SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue has provided for the electronic filing of tax returns and payment of taxes following the passage of the "Electronic Commerce Act" last year.

This allows taxpayers to pay their taxes through the Internet.

How is this done? For many of us, the concept of paying bills through banks' websites is not new. So why not pay taxes through the bank's Internet facilities as well? The banks themselves are aggressively pushing for this service.

Paying through the Internet is not only faster, but it is more convenient since the taxpayer can pay taxes from their homes. It also removes the hassle of having to wait in long queues in banks or be confined to the limited banking hours.

Thus, this concept of e-banking can be translated into "e-payment", the process of paying taxes through the Internet banking facilities of an authorized agent bank (AAB), that is accredited to collect internal revenue taxes.

Taxpayers registered with the Integrated Tax System with e-mail account and Internet access may enroll in the EFPS.

Beating the deadline

As we know, Internet banking is done 24 hours, seven days a week. There are no curfews, no office hours. Not so for e-payment of taxes.

The regulations state that the electronic return should be filed on or before 10 p.m. of the due date to ensure receipt of the tax payments by the BIR.

Upon the successful filing and payment of the return through the Internet, the taxpayer is given a confirmation number. This confirmation number is a control number issued by the AAB to the taxpayer and BIR to acknowledge that the taxpayer's account has been successfully debited electronically in payment of his tax liability.

The confirmation number is considered the equivalent of a bank validation and official receipt issued by the AAB, showing when the payment was made and how much.

In addition, the BIR issues an acknowledgment number to the taxpayer, to confirm that the tax payment has been credited to the account of the government.

Manual payment

Can one electronically file the return but pay the taxes manually? Yes. Section 8 of Revenue Regulations 9-2001 allows this.

E-filing and e-payment do not necessarily go hand in hand all the time. It is possible to do e-filing of the return and then do a manual payment of taxes through AAB's.

What is the procedure on this? For Large Taxpayers who intend to pay their taxes manually, payment shall be made either at the servicing AABs at the Ground Floor of the BIR National Office Building; or at the AABs at the respective Large Taxpayers District Office/s (LTDO's).

Manual payments shall be made within banking hours of the day when the return was electronically filed following the "pay-as-you-file" principle.

For Non-Large Taxpayers who intend to pay manually, payment will be made only with the AABs of the Revenue District Office where the taxpayer is required to register. In places where there is no AAB, the payment shall be made with the Revenue District Officer, Collection Agent, or duly authorized Treasurer of the city or municipality under the jurisdiction of the Revenue District Office in which the Non-Large Taxpayer is required to register.

Manual payments shall be made within banking hours of the day when the return was electronically filed, subject to the provisions on installment payments in the Tax Code, following the "pay-as-you-file" principle.

The return is deemed filed in both instances on the date appearing in, and after a filing reference number is issued to the taxpayer via EFPS.

The filing reference number refers to the control number issued by the EFPS to acknowledge that a tax return has been e-filed. The printout of the filing reference number shall be presented to the AAB for manual payment of the tax due.

The payment thereof is received upon validation of the document containing the filing reference number generated by the EFPS and the issuance of an official receipt by the AAB.

Time and place of filing

The certificate of withholding tax shall be filed within 15 days from the date of filing of any of the following BIR forms, nos.: a) 1702; b) 1702Q; c) 2550M; d) 2550Q; and e) 2551.

The taxpayer is required to file three copies of the certificate of withholding tax.

With respect to BIR Form No. 1700, in cases where such form is required to be filed, the certificate of withholding tax shall be filed in triplicate by the taxpayer when required by the BIR.

The certificate of withholding tax of income payments made to a Large Taxpayer shall be filed with the LTS or LTDO as the case may be, in the case of Large Taxpayers, and in the case of Non-Large Taxpayers with their respective Revenue District Offices.

Can I get a copy of e-filed returns? Yes. The regulations allow the electronic copies of the returns in their original format e-filed by the taxpayer to be accessed by him via the EFPS for a period of two months from filing.

After this period, a taxpayer may secure a certification from the BIR containing the information supplied by him in the return that he e-filed via the EFPS.

Parallel filing

Taxpayers enrolled in the EFPS shall, with respect to their filing of every applicable return for the first time via the EFPS, be subject to parallel filing, that is, the taxpayer who e-files shall still manually file the return. This transitory provision shall be effective only until December 31, 2001.

It should be noted that this scheme of tax payment and filing is voluntary to taxpayers. Thus, it may be construed that the system is designed to give taxpayers the option to pay taxes through the convenience the Internet.

As mentioned earlier, the concept of e-banking is not new, more so the concept of Internet technology and e-commerce transaction. The need to be wired, everywhere, always, and fast, is not only a trend, it is a need and a lifestyle.

If a government is sensitive to it's people needs and sees this emerging lifestyle and adapts to it, the result is not only public service. The government and institutions should then try to adjust and "fit" into the lifestyle.

200-year-old drink goes for 'newly grown-up' market

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MARKETING STRATEGY

IF THERE is a kids market, a teen market and an adult market, there is also the "newly grown-up" market.

This market is growing around the world and it is this market that the 200-year-old whisky, Chivas Regal, wants to capture and hold on to for at least the next 200 years.

Mike Spurling, chief executive of Chivas Regal, told the INQUIRER during his recent visit to Manila that the so-called "newly grown-up" market is being targeted by every fashion brand in all industries from cars to clothes to watches.

"This market has vitality and an attitude that says we want something new and we want the best. We cannot really put an age group here because the newly grown-up can be anywhere from 19 to the 30s even to their 40s. It is really a state of mind," Spurling explained.

In the Philippines, this change in the state of mind occurs when drinkers "graduate" from the old favorites such as beer or gin to the scotch, which is a popular drink among the more mature executives or successful business people.

Peter Prentice, Chivas regional marketing director, said the drink latched on to this new market after extensive research on the consumers that would likely patronize Chivas Regal.

"We looked around the world and our research found that this group of consumers from Asia and Europe have something in common, they all want choice and they want control of their own destiny," Prentice said.

Taking control, he added, can be shown by either buying a new Porsche, taking a Friday off from work to be with the family or by going off to the beach. If the marketing plan is successful, they want to add getting a drink of Chivas Regal Scotch whisky at the end of a long day or for special occasions to this list.

Chivas Regal was founded in 1801 by James Chivas and his brother John who set up shop in Aberdeen, Scotland, considered the heart of malt whisky distilling in the world. They first produced whisky under Chivas Brothers until 1841 when they came out with a premium blend that they called Chivas Regal.

To highlight the anniversary celebration, Chivas Regal will hold an online charity auction that aims to raise millions of dollars for global and national charities. The auction will make it possible for individuals across the globe to bid on unique adventures, unique experiences and items that money alone cannot buy.

These include a date with Hollywood actress Jaime Luner, a complete head-to-toe makeover with InStyle magazine, a chance to stay in the world's only underwater hotel, a wedding in a Scottish mansion, a pair of diamond hair clips and a date with actor Jeremy Irons.

Prentice says Chivas Regal is fortunate that it can implement a global marketing campaign because of the common characteristics between the newly grown-up market in Asia and in Europe or the United States.

"We believe that Filipinos here who belong to our target market have more in common with their counterparts in other countries than they have with other Filipinos, whether it is taste in music, drinks or belief systems," Prentice explained.

The current marketing campaign to celebrate the 200th year of Chivas Regal revolves around the line "When You Know," which tries to define that moment when the market suddenly realizes that drinking Chivas Regal is for them.

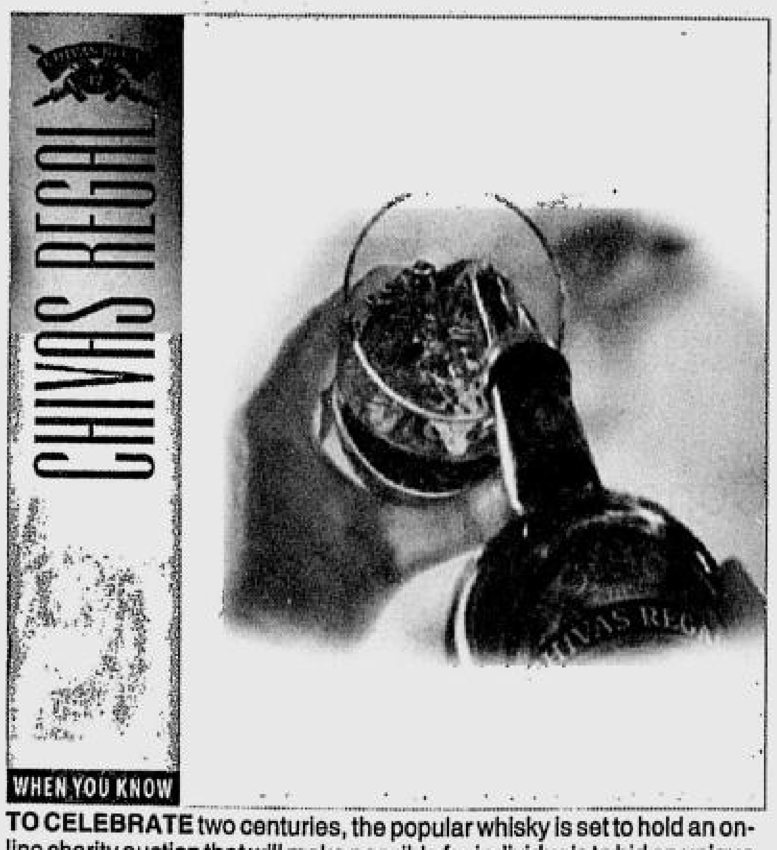
"We replicate the line in everything from advertising to our marketing activities. It is a global campaign but we also let our marketing people in different countries apply the concept to suit the local markets," Spurling says.

The marketing campaign for the Philippines, for instance, is unique because of the big community of Overseas Filipino Workers.

"This is perhaps the only country in the world where there is a critical mass of OFWs who get Chivas Regal through the duty-free outlets. In other countries, we have duty free but the purchases are outbound, but here it is in inbound, meaning OFWs buy Chivas Regal to bring home to their families," Spurling added.

Spurling also notes that the Filipino drinking community does not have a hang-up drinking Scotch as in other countries because they don't really look at Scotch as "their dad's drink," therefore, is old-fashioned.

"The Scotch culture is good here and in other countries with a strong Roman Catholic background. I guess it is because of family values where children respect their parents' choices," Prentice added.



TO CELEBRATE two centuries, the popular whisky is set to hold an online charity auction that will make possible for individuals to bid on unique adventures and experiences that money cannot buy.

What products sell well during hard times?

(From page B12)

diture items among Class D and E families in Metro Manila:

Movie watching	**12%**
Canned fish	**12**
Soft drinks	**10**
Ice cream	**10**

Here is a striking finding on how families coped with hard times. They eliminated more items from their shopping list rather than simply cut consumption.

"Elimination behaviors exceed very substantially reduction behaviors," said Roberto. "It's a year of elimination, the last desperate step in coping for the poor."

In Metro Manila, there were four items that suffered significant reduction behaviors while as many as 31 items were eliminated from the shopping lists.

Year of elimination

This is the list of the most eliminated expenditure items among class D and E families in Metro Manila:

Movie watching	**37%**
Out of town travel	**30**
Follow-on formula	**27**
Fresh milk	**27**
Going to computer shops or Internet cafe	**26**
Evaporated milk	**25**
Breakfast cereals	**25**
Magazine, comics	**25**
Condensed milk	**24**
Infant formula	**22**
Candies	**22**
Disposable diapers	**22**
All-purpose cream	**22**
Visit to dentist	**22**
Baby/body oil	**22**
Growing up milk	**20**
Instant rice porridge	**20**
Cosmetics	**20**
Visit to doctor	**19**
Malling	**19**
Facial wash	**18**
Fruit juice concentrate	**17**
Rent VHS/VCD/DVD	**17**
Eating at fast food	**16**
Junk food	**16**
Ice cream	**16**
Powdered milk for adults	**14**
Astringent	**14**
Lotion	**12**
Vitamins	**11**
Dried fish	**10**

The professor got to know the food priorities of the very poor when he asked them what was their *ulam* (viand) during the week. This is a typical response:

Day 1: cup of coffee poured into bowl of rice

Day 2: soy sauce sprinkled on the rice

Day 3: Soft drinks poured into the bowl of rice

Day 4: brown sugar mashed into the hot rice

Day 5: stored pork oil poured into the rice

Day 6: rock salt on the rice (*nagdidildil ng asin*).

Day 7: *araw ng para sa tunay na ulam* (day for real viand).

That may help explain the staying power of coffee, soft drinks and soy sauce among class D and E.

Keep within five pesos

Hot dogs figured in the breakfast viand of the poor, according to the study. But they were not the brand names like Purefoods or Swifts. They were the unbranded kind made with processed poultry feed and sold in public markets.

These are not only cheap, they are also cheap to cook, for the poor heat the hot dogs over their candles.

Roberto wants to highlight the role of instant noodles, the lifesaver of the poor. Among class D and E, instant noodles were not eliminated at all, only 3 percent reduced their consumption and over 80 percent maintained their spending levels.

Why such popularity? Payless sells for only P4 a pouch, and Lucky Me goes for P4.15. Adding water and cheap vegetables creates a meal for a family of four.

This relates to the hotdog example. The unbranded hotdogs of the poor cost only P1.50 per piece. It makes sense to adjust prices to keep items within P5. Assume another P5 for cooking costs. Small packs, sachets, and selling on the *tingi* (individual piece) level may appeal to the poorer classes.

Dr. Roberto stresses the need to be sensitive to the needs of the *masa*. The population that falls under Classes D and E forms the overwhelming bulk of the market. Firms attuned to the *masa*, like those that sell Payless and Lucky Me, would prosper even in hard times. *(Comments to dennisarroyo@yahoo.com)*

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

What products sell well during hard times?

By Dennis M. Arroyo

PRODUCTS that address the needs of the poor thrive even in the most challenging of economic times.

This is one of the general findings of the study of marketing guru Dr. Ned Roberto, entitled "Consumer Coping Behavior Survey for the 2nd Quarter 2001", subtitled "How Urban Consumers are Coping with Hard Times."

The survey was taken in April 2001, covering Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao. The 700 respondents were all housewives. In Metro Manila, there were 100 from the elite class A and B, 100 from the middle class C, and 100 from classes D and E. (Class D refers to the "poor" while Class E is considered "very poor.")

Sampling was random and representative.

Bulk of the population

Roberto says Classes D and E make up about 65 percent of the national population, 40 percent for D and 25 percent for E.

The survey asked the housewives to compare their family income today with that of a year ago. In Metro Manila, those who said their current income was less than that last year was rising: 16 percent in 1990, 34 percent in 1998, 45 percent in 1999 and 51 percent in 2001.

This was because salaries were not increased, or the increase did not keep up with inflation. The latest reading was the worst ever in Roberto's time series.

The survey ran a question on how often the family experienced being *"kapos"*(short) during the past four weeks. Among Metro Manila D and E families, the ratios were:

Not at all	36%
Once	22
Twice	27
3-5 times	13
6 times to every other day	2
Everyday	1

The home manager had the option of buying a product more often, maintaining current levels of consumption, cutting down on purchase, eliminating it from the budget or returning it to the budget.

For example, here is the distribution for canned fish among D and E families in Metro Manila. The majority, or 66 percent maintained current consumption, 8 percent bought even more, 12 percent cut down, 5 percent eliminated it, and 3 percent put it back on the budget.

Maintenance behavior

The following expenditure items were the most maintained among Class D and E families in Metro Manila:

Toothbrush	95%
Condiments	93
Toothpaste	91
Coffee	89
Deodorant	88
Shampoo	88
Sanitary napkin	88
Talcum powder	87
Bath soap	85
Alcohol	82
Instant noodle	80
Bread spread	79
Hot dog	76
Fresh meat	75
Cologne	73
Fresh produce	72
Lotion	72
Dried fish	71
Softdrinks	71

The following were the most reduced expen-

WHAT/ B11

Knowing what clients want most

MARKETERS are in the business of knowing what their consumers want most.

A firm developing a new family van, for example, would want to know which pleases their target market more—loads of trunk space, or lots of leg room. A furniture maker, on the other hand, would be interested what catches the eye of potential buyers— intricate designs, or the type of wood used.

When evaluating and developing features for products and services, marketers can rely on a tool called Conjoint Analysis. Among the questions that can be answered by conjoint analysis are: What are the most and least important features of a product for target consumers? Should a product be enhanced with a few new features or redesigned completely?

Data for a Conjoint Analysis is traditionally gathered through surveys. With emergence of the personal computer, a Conjoint Analysis study can now be conducted via e-mail or through the World Wide Web.

For this type of study, respondents are asked to trade off one characteristic against another to arrive at the most important and least important among the product attributes. The researcher may also opt to compare a set of attributes against another set attributes. For example, a toilet bowl manufacturer can test consumer reactions to a space-saving bowl that comes in elegant shapes and designs against a larger bowl which allows more comfortable seating with a more conventional look.

By considering different product and service traits jointly (thus the name conjoint), marketers can gain a deeper understanding of how their products will perform against competition. Conjoint Analysis can also be a effective tool in predicting consumer reaction to new products and services saving companies the need for costly test-marketing activities.

Mercy Abad, president of Trends-MBL will thoroughly discuss the ins-and-outs of conjoint analysis in the module **Decision Model for Optimum Product Design** during the "Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior" jointly organized by the Association of Marketing Educators and Mansmith and Fielders on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Conference Center.

Other modules of the Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior are **Modeling Consumer Behavior** conducted by AIM professor Dr. **Eduardo Roberto; Setting the Profitable Pricing Threshold** by De La Salle Graduate school of Business professor Dr. Antonio Conception; **Predicting Consumer Purchase Behavior** by Ambrocio Reyes, director of operations, AC Nielsen Philippines; **Quantifying Consumer Attitude Towards Creativity of An Advertisement by** Darrah Estrada, managing director of Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines; and **Understanding Consumer' In-Store Shopping Behavior and Their Role In Sales Promotions** by Raul Esteban, managing director of the Philippine Survey and Research Center.

For more information on the Strategic Marketing Conference on Consumer Behavior contact 893-6459 and 892-3261.

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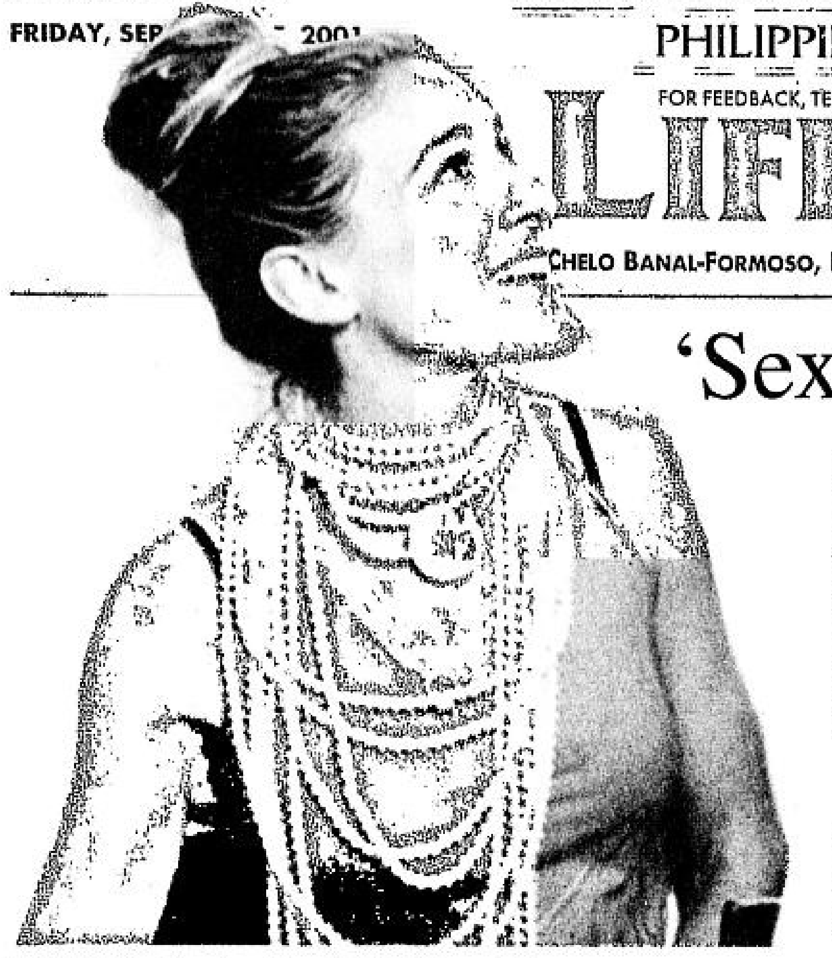

CARRIE Bradshaw's quirky style is interpreted in the multistrands of pearls wound around her neck and exposed bra straps.

'Sex & the City' is today's fashion barometer

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THERE'S nothing like a nasty weather and even nastier flu to keep you in bed and turn you into an HBO junkie. (The stronger the antibiotics, the stronger the viruses get. Agree?) That was when I realized the lifestyle clout of the award-winning HBO series "Sex & the City."

Women, gays and men—in that order—aren't only talking about its racy, ultra-candid but well-written episodes, gays and women—in that order again—are also watching out for the latest styles and accessories in it like it were the hottest fashion on parade, even here in Metro Manila, which should be better suited to something like "Drugs and the City" or "Uncollected Trash and the City."

Vogue's **Andre Leon Talley** called "Sex & the City (SATC)" the "greatest fashion Geiger counter on television" these days. Hello magazine even uses "Sex & the City" beauty secrets as its come-on cover line on its latest issue. New York magazine puts **Kim Cattrall** on the cover of its "Single in the City" issue, wearing nothing but striped shirtsleeves, opened up the front, of course, her legs crossed. Even the rag trade bible W concedes that "SATC" is today's sure-fire trendsetter, noting how fabric flowers and capes took off on a universal wave after **Sarah Jessica Parker** and the girls donned them as they walked the streets of Manhattan. (This season, however, they'll never be caught dead with them.)

Another proof

The "SATC" as fashion barometer is yet another proof of what we said in previous column—that trends don't emanate solely from designer's runways or Vogue pages anymore; they can spring from nowhere and anywhere, fuse and transmute into practical forms on the streets or in the workplaces where they serve real-life needs and situations. Editors and designers no longer hold the absolute power to dictate what's in and what's out. It's the consumer who does and she does it by choosing what style icons to imitate or dump—from **Madonna** to **Gwyneth Paltrow** and now, the "SATC" girls.

In the case of Parker, Cattrall and the "SATC" girls, it's not only their Fendi bags or Manolo Blahniks that connect to the viewers—although spotting brands and styles has become a weekly must for "SATC" junkies—but it's their survival approach to a singleton's life in general. In short, they're so now. Even if their "promiscuity," for instance, is still way over the top for traditional viewers, including us Filipinas, still their candid views on relationships manage to hit their target, more often than not.

But before we go to that touchy subject, let's do "SATC" fashion. **Cynthia Nixon** (Miranda) told People Magazine, "The clothes are like another character in the show. They help make it real."

Fetish

It's the "SATC" stylists who put together the look, not a single designer—choosing as many as 50 outfits per episode. It's coproducer Parker who gives her considerable inputs, and Parker has a fetish for shoes, Blahniks in particular. In fact, "SATC" is credited for giving the high-end Manolo Blahnik a mass-market recall.

As a former American Ballet Theatre student, Parker loves, as Talley wrote, "fashion that evokes a Degas ballerina. You can expect to be seeing her in a lot of Oscar de la Renta: Oscar was way ahead of the bandwagon with his frothy corps-de-ballet dresses." Of course, it helps that she has the ballerina figure that can slip into anything skinny and skimpy.

"SATC" stylists **Patricia Field** and **Rebecca Weinberg** are full-blooded fashionistas who are veterans of New York's clothes shops and fashion subculture, Weinberg being a bosom friend of the '80s drag icon **RuPaul**. It's these two, with Parker, who plot out the girls' wardrobe every season. They're great at mixing designer brands with flea-market finds, and when they use designer clothes, they sometimes give it a twist, like Parker wearing a Chanel top

SEX/ p.C2

TRAFFIC STOPPER. Sarah Jessica Parker's bold combination matches the colors of the shopping bags.

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Veteran stylist conducts seminar

SCHWARZKOPF invites hairdressers to join its "Seasonal Trend Seminar" with top hair expert Philip Ellis Sept. 3-23 at the TSMI Technical Studio in Greenhills, San Juan.

Ellis, who has been in the hair-styling business for more than 30 years, will share the latest methods in hair cutting like the feather cutting, a style using a feather razor; texture cutting, a style that gives texture to the hair; and personalized cutting.

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4 new scents for the young

HANG Ten Phils., a popular casual clothing brand for the upbeat youth, introduces to the local market four new zestful fragrances.

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The new scents are available in the 31 Hang Ten branches in Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu (Ayala Center), Iloilo, Davao, SM Pampanga and Gaisano Davao. Four new Hang Ten branches will soon open in Robinsons Place Pasig and Iloilo City, Pacific Mall in Legaspi City and in SM Davao.

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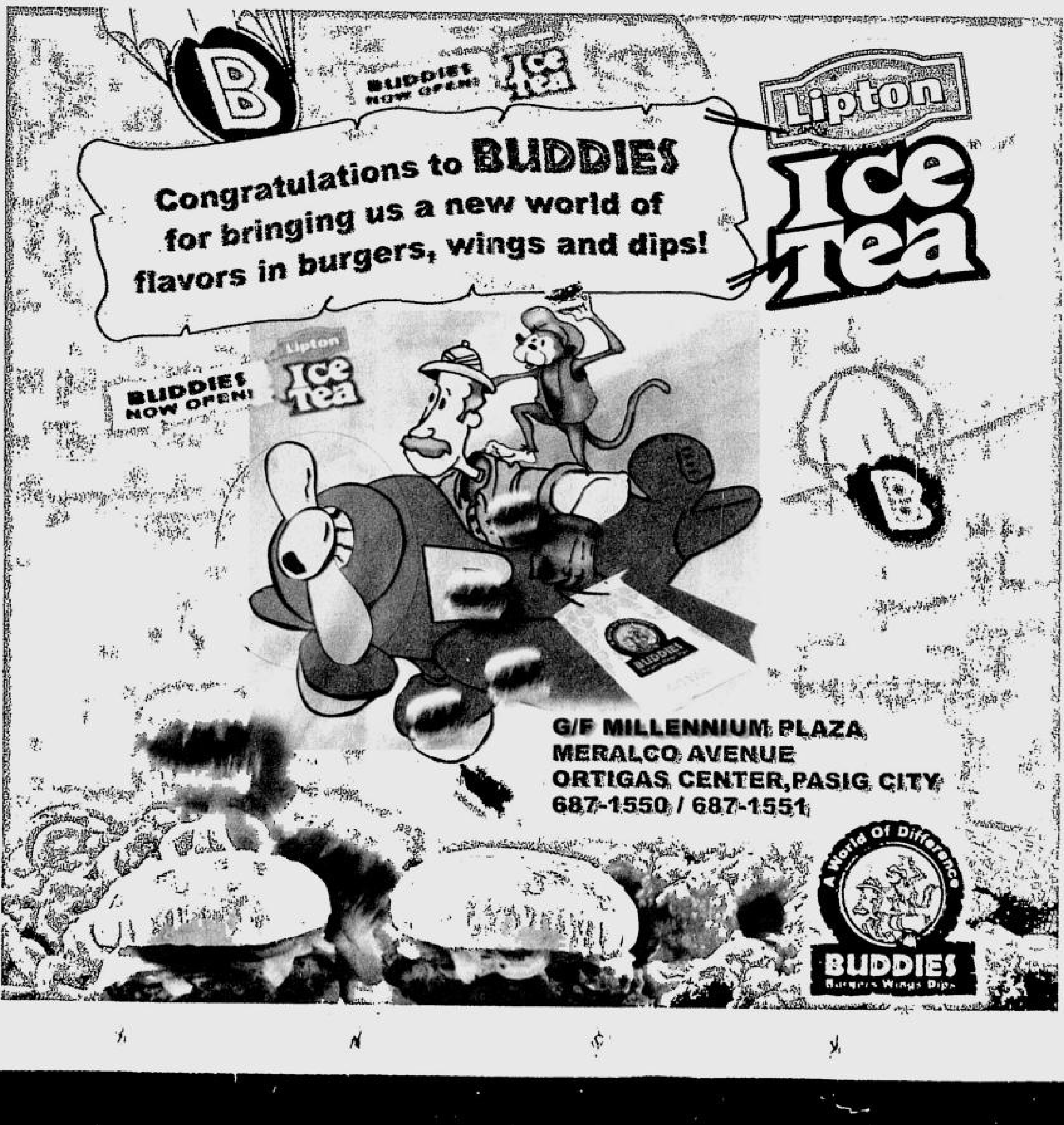
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It's more than a style armory, however. It's become what 'Charlie's Angels' was in the '70s

'Sex & the City' is today's fashion barometer

(From pae C1)

backward.

Each girl has a style stamp—Carrie is a versatile dresser, from designer-chic to sexy; Samantha is bold; Charlotte is sweet; Miranda is corporate chic. In short, there's something in there for all kinds of female viewers.

As "SATC's" style clout became stronger, designers and luxury brands hopped on the bandwagon. **Vera Wang**, for instance, made a wedding gown (Charlotte's especially for one episode.) We read on the Net that this season we can expect more corsets and white shoes. But such style armory would not have worked if the series weren't well written, boldly ingenious enough to tread the thin line between good and bad taste.

As it turned out, it wasn't only well developed, it also broke fresh ground, daring to break taboos even on cable viewership. "SATC" is today what "Charlie's Angels" were in the feminist '70s, only more. "Charlie's Angels" exuded the woman's newfound physical power in the feminist era, staged but pioneering just the same. The post-feminist "SATC" captures the new-millennium woman who's already secure in her physical prowess but who still wants to be empowered even in her singlehood, no matter that the mating game of the new century isn't a level playing field at all. As its creator **Darren Star** said in an interview with New York magazine, it starts with the premise that "it's okay to be single." And yet, Star added, "there's never been a woman who hasn't paid a terrible price for being free."

The feeling of aloneness in being single—aloneness that's both sad and empowering—is perhaps what hits the soft spot in many viewers, more than the sexy scenes. It is Cattrall's Samantha, the sex junkie, who elicits a curious mix of shock, amusement and sympathy from female viewers. "She's a role model for bad living," said Star.

Wondering

It's Samantha's candidness and vulgarity that leave viewers wondering whether she's a guy's woman or a woman's woman—meaning she crosses gender. For instance, her no-commitment attitude is so male, as New York magazine noted, yet her compulsive seduction is so female. Which is apparently how the show's writers want it to be—there are four writers, by the way, two gay men and two straight women. Samantha is brazen about sex—a bit too much for Filipino viewers, if you ask me—yet the character also displays acute and comic vulnerability. Just when you are about to be turned off by her brazenness, she suddenly becomes funny.

And—her rebound power is impressive, even if you can't identify with her. Nothing ever leaves her down on the floor for long, not even after she was thrown out of her posh apartment because of the too many men she was bringing home.

It helps that the "SATC" girls aren't all that young, especially Samantha who's past 40. One of the funniest episodes was when Samantha feared she was nearing menopause because she wasn't getting her period and had to admit to the gang that "okay, I'm a bit older than you."

Bonding

Perhaps for Filipina viewers, the strong come-on of "SATC" is the bonding of the girls, the support group. The chick talk that knows no parameters. As the show's writers said, it's single women living life on their own terms, no matter that the biological clock is ticking.

It's interesting to note that the writers sometimes try out their lines and stories on informal focus groups just to test whether or not they are crossing that thin line between good and bad taste. It's also interesting note that in real life, these actresses are not as promiscuous as their screen characters. Parker is married to **Matthew Broderick**. Cattrall, who's 45, is married to an audio-store owner in Manhattan who does all the cooking at home. And Cattrall's nightlife is—believe it—fulfilled just watching "Casablanca" with her hubby at home.

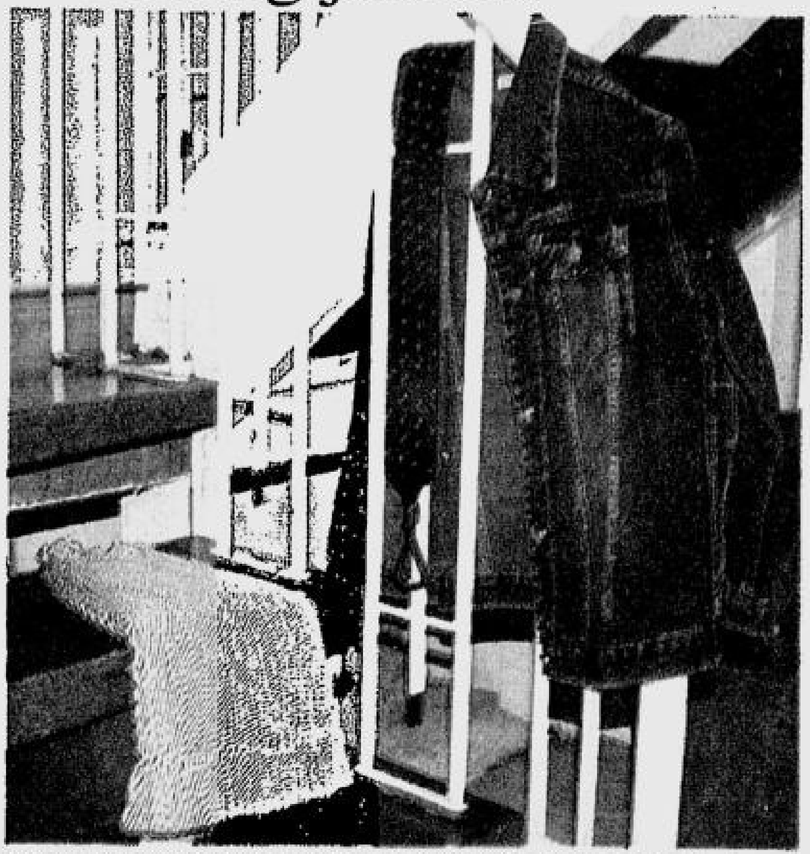
I don't know that Filipinas can identify with the sexcapades of these Manhattanites. Frankly, it can be tedious just watching them hop from bed to bed. What helps are the acutely realistic and comic dialogues, and the way writers probe relationships, casual or otherwise. But I do know that "SATC" is popular among guys and girls here; it's so talked about. There's even a bar in Makati that serves martini Tuesday nights and turns on its set to "SATC" so customers can watch.

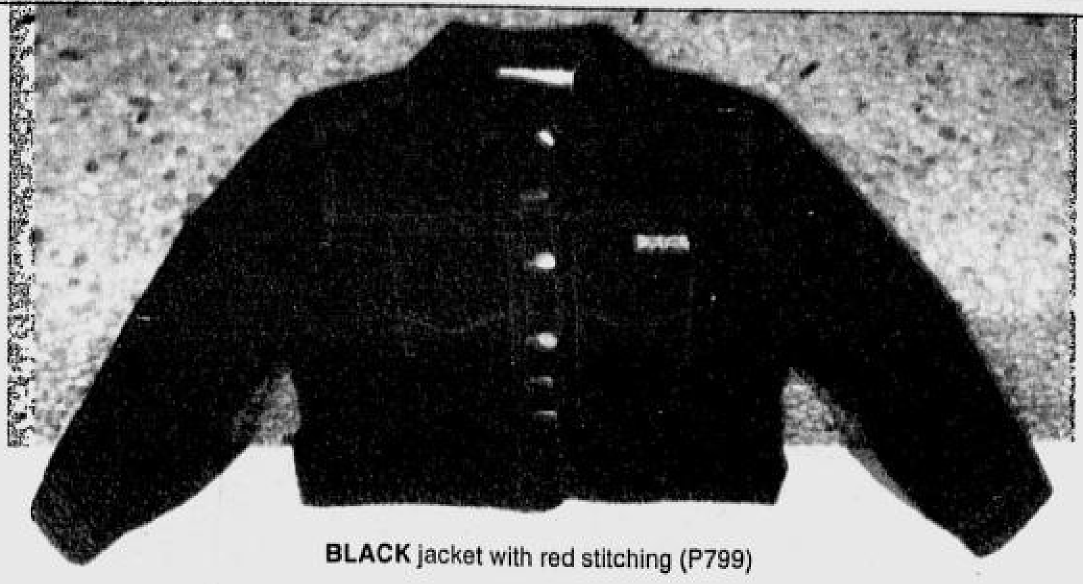
I love the writing and the fashions even if I can't ever get into them, not even if you combined all the taebos and Pilateses of Metro Manila. Honestly, the only thing **Alya** and I have in common with Carrie is her Macintosh G3. But we're not complaining. We catch "SATC" every chance we get. It's a good couch-potato thrill, especially if your other alternative is watching the Senate hearing.

Oh, and it's not true that **Rosebud** is the image model for Shanghai Tang.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

Denims are everywhere, including jackets


DENIM jacket (P749); black-and-white striped pleated halter top (P799)
ALL ITEMS FROM ANONYMOUS


BLACK jacket with red stitching (P799)

Deliberately denim

By Camille T. Cruz

Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

THERE was a time when everybody wanted a pair of Fiorucci, Sergio Valente or Jordache jeans. Now people want Calvin Kleins, Diesel or Levi's. Where has the whole jeans phenomenon taken us?

Jeans have taken us to where we want to go. They have in fact become staples of top fashion houses, like Emporio Armani and Gloria Vanderbilt.

Denim fabric has become more and more visible these days. It even has extended its fashion reach to include accessories and accents.

Not all denim pieces come in blues. A jacket, for instance, may come in a black lightweight fabric. It's all in the style and details.

Some people do not realize that what goes under a jacket does not always have to strive for a casual effect. A denim jacket can be worn over a crinkled halter top that is on the dressier side. It is considered fashionably hip to be a bit on the rugged side with a twist of modernity. This can be seen through denims mixed with soft fabric tops or skirts, or simply a leather piece and a soft contrasting piece.

The denim jacket has also become a favorite. An alternative to blue would be a gray lightweight denim jacket. Try different variations for a less boring look. Some choose to wear a T-shirt. If so, try a bright colored T-shirt with perhaps a graphic of your favorite icon or pet.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

GRAY jacket (P749); yellow T-shirt with dog graphic (P259); khaki pants with UK flag print on pocket

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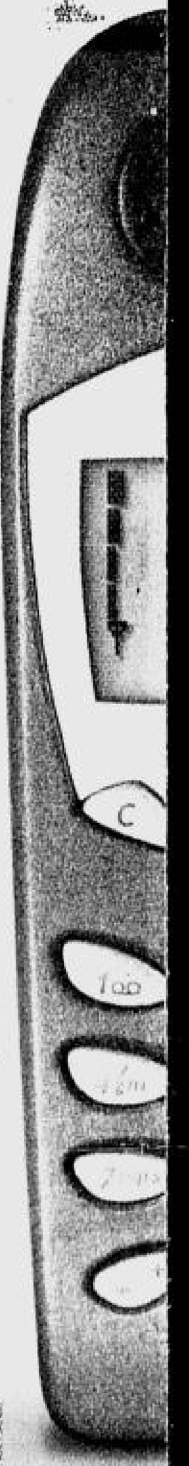

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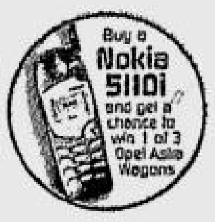
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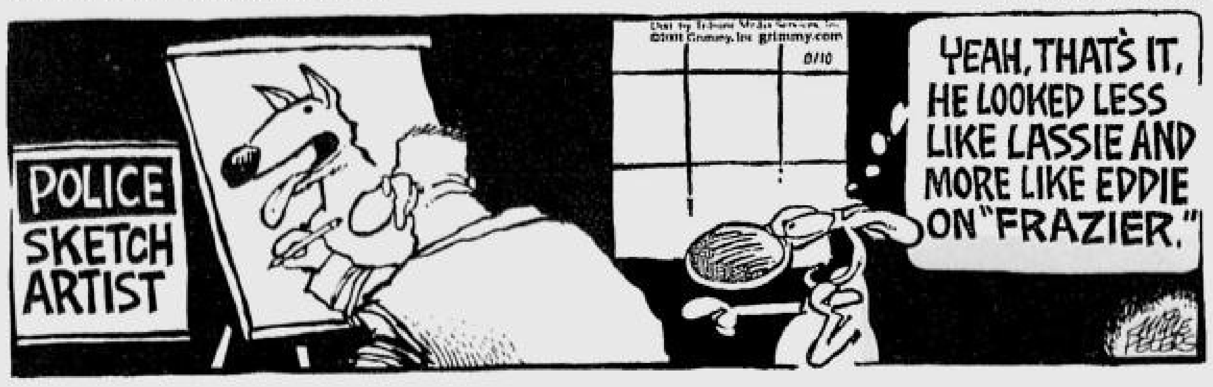
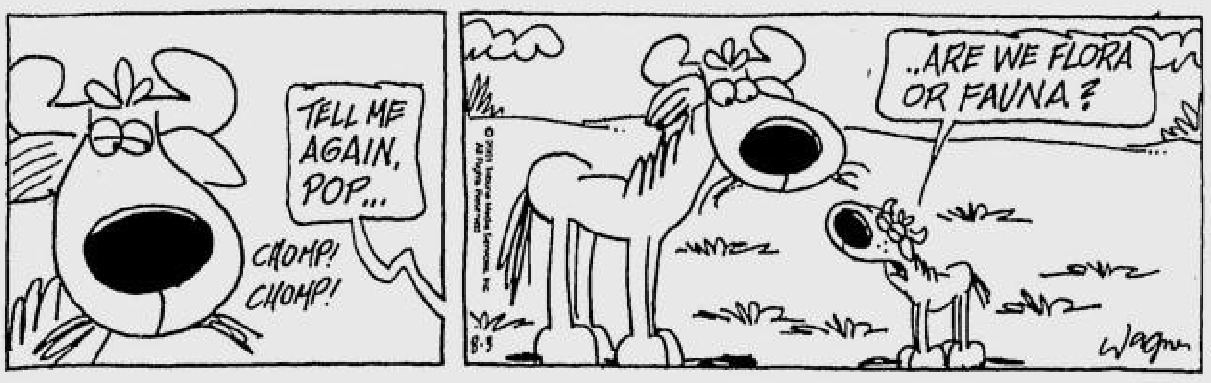
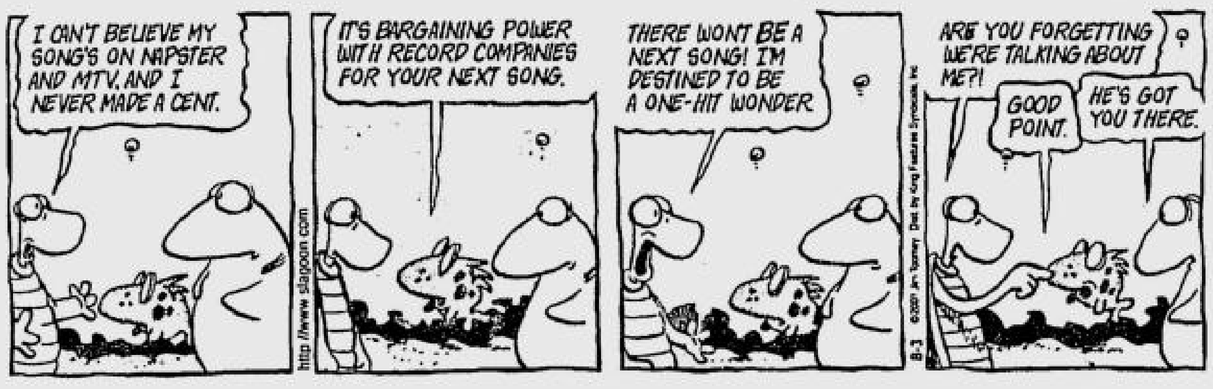
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


POLICE SKETCH ARTIST
YEAH, THAT'S IT, HE LOOKED LESS LIKE LASSIE AND MORE LIKE EDDIE ON "FRAZIER."
grimmy.com
8/10

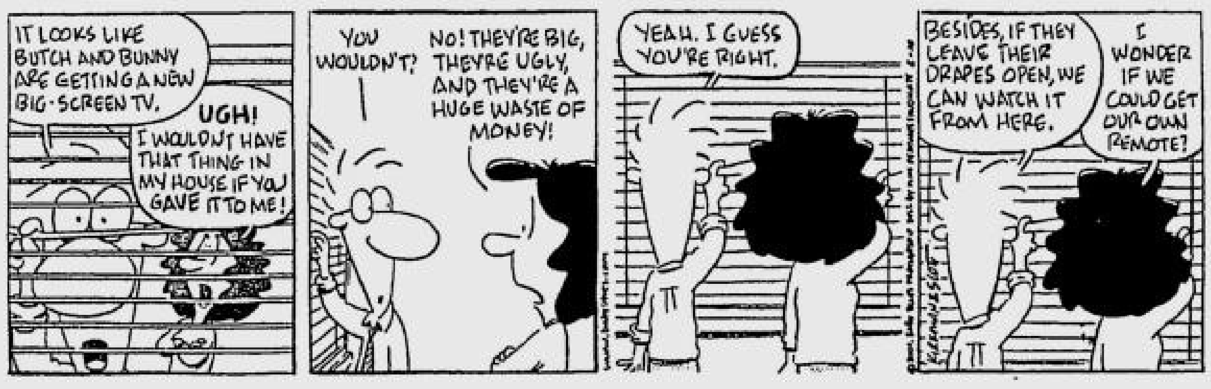
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


TELL ME AGAIN, POP...
CHOMP! CHOMP!
..ARE WE FLORA OR FAUNA?
8-3
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


I CAN'T BELIEVE MY SONG'S ON NAPSTER AND MTV, AND I NEVER MADE A CENT.
http://www.slagoon.com
IT'S BARGAINING POWER WITH RECORD COMPANIES FOR YOUR NEXT SONG.
THERE WON'T BE A NEXT SONG! I'M DESTINED TO BE A ONE-HIT WONDER.
8-3
ARE YOU FORGETTING WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ME?!
GOOD POINT.
HE'S GOT YOU THERE.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


IT LOOKS LIKE BUTCH AND BUNNY ARE GETTING A NEW BIG-SCREEN TV.
UGH! I WOULDN'T HAVE THAT THING IN MY HOUSE IF YOU GAVE IT TO ME!
YOU WOULDN'T?
NO! THEY'RE BIG, THEY'RE UGLY, AND THEY'RE A HUGE WASTE OF MONEY!
YEAH. I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
BESIDES, IF THEY LEAVE THEIR DRAPES OPEN, WE CAN WATCH IT FROM HERE.
I WONDER IF WE COULD GET OUR OWN REMOTE?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Feinstein, Julie Kavner, Tom Everett Scott, Corbin Bernsen, Peggy Noonan, Chrissie Hynde, Devon Sawa

Happy Birthday: Stop changing your mind and get on with it. Follow the path you select to the end without deviating from your chosen course. Your ability to analyze will help you stand out in a crowd, but don't get so wrapped up in detail that you neglect to finish. Your numbers: 5, 14, 19, 27, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can pick up overtime today. Channel your energy wisely and score points with the boss. Don't depend on co-workers for help; they'll only hold you back and try to make you look bad.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secret information will help you make decisions, and your hard work will pay off. Hidden assets will come in handy. Dealing with large corporations or government agencies will go well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't be coerced into giving out private information. Be careful and protect your interests; someone close to you is jealous and unpredictable.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stay busy with new interests that will take your mind off personal troubles. The friends you encounter will be good listeners and will have a host of good suggestions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mate will want undivided attention. If you aren't prepared to give it, make plans to be as far away as possible. To tell the truth, you are guilty of neglect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can learn valuable information by listening to those with experience. Close friends will shed some light on your personal situation if you discuss private matters.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You aren't seeing your financial picture too clearly. Do not overspend on luxury items or on family members who want you to buy them unnecessary apparel. You must be wise to be lucky.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Romance is making you extremely devoted to a special someone. Tell your lover how you feel and rekindle the spark that ignited the first time you met.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The changes at work will be beneficial if you accept them. Be ready to take advantage of the circumstances and be diplomatic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should start developing some of those hobbies you used to enjoy so much. Spend more time with your family, getting back to basics.

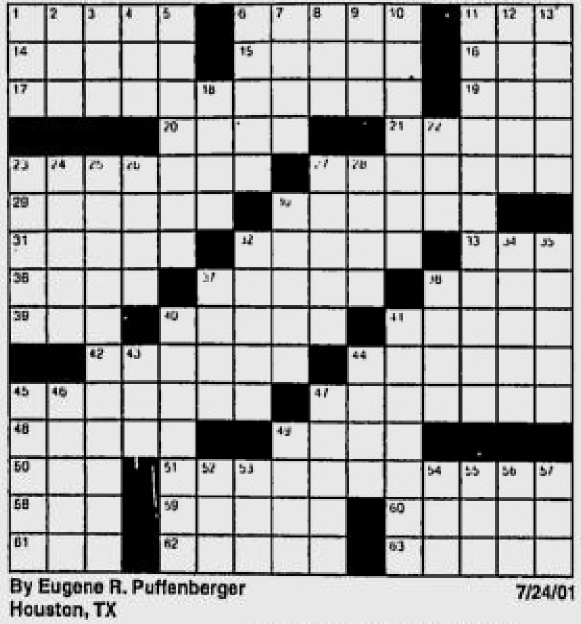
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hidden matters are likely to cause disruptions on the home front if you haven't been completely honest. If your mate is suspicious, it's a good idea to clear the air before it's too late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): New friendships will develop through the company you keep. Don't turn down invitations just because you are feeling low. You need to socialize to turn your mood around.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast and true. As a leader with a mission, you will always have a purpose in mind and direct others to follow. You are innovative, clever and willing to pitch in.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX

7/24/01

ACROSS
1 Hurried
6 Copper-zinc alloy
11 Entertainer Calloway
14 Soft palate's pendant lobe
15 Veranda in Hawaii
16 Fuss
17 Umbilicus
19 Rocky crag
20 Birch or sycamore
21 __ Dame
23 Ostentatious
27 Farewells
29 Consecrate
30 Man of the cloth
31 Perry Mason's Street
32 Navy frogmen
33 Bobby of hockey
36 Last breath
37 Ring king
38 Lady of the haus
39 Tarzan Ron
40 Pursue
41 Wedding loops
42 Stick
44 Duplicity
45 Place on a pedestal
47 Ruin
48 Euripides tragedy
49 First-rate
50 Plus
51 Dog days in the news business
58 Hodges of baseball
59 __ Jaw, Saskatchewan
60 Shoe grip
61 Suffix for a language
62 Actress Susan
63 Moor

DOWN
1 Polish
2 St. crosser
3 __-de-sac
4 Building extension
5 Racing venue
6 St. Louis team
7 Grade
8 Colonial insect
9 __ Tome and Principe
10 Transgressors
11 Diagonal
12 Hold dear
13 Makes holes
18 Very dry, as champagne
22 Kimono sash
23 Spanish priest
24 Ryan or Shaquille
25 Pamper to a fault
26 Heap
27 Accuse
28 Canine sound
30 Terminate
32 Stock unit
34 Part of RCA
35 Out of practice
37 At the home of: Fr.
38 Bit of data
40 Anatomical intersection
41 Implore
43 Corrida cheer
44 Lairs
45 Reflection
46 Patron saint of Paris
47 Group's senior member
49 In addition
52 Charged particle
53 Fate
54 Alternative to lager
55 __ of Galilee
56 Feedbag tidbit
57 Ultimate degree

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	S	S	E	T		A	N	T	I		T	W	A	S
N	A	O	M	I		S	C	A	N		R	I	G	A
T	R	I	U	M	P	H	A	N	T		I	D	O	L
A	I	L		E	L	E	A		E	S	C	O	R	T
			T	O	U	R		F	R	E	E	W	A	Y
I	C	A	R	U	S		F	I	N	E	R			
P	O	S	I	T		G	A	L	A		A	W	L	S
S	I	T	U		G	R	U	E	L		T	O	O	L
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			V	A	N	N	A		T	I	P	T	O	E
P	A	R	I	N	G	S		B	E	G	S			
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L	E	T	T		E	A	R	N		O	I	L	E	R
M	A	T	E		R	E	D	S		T	E	M	P	O

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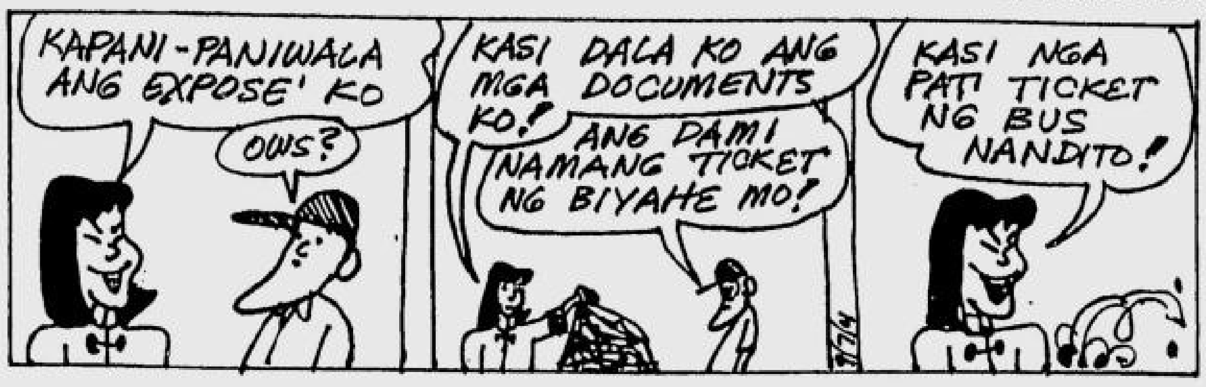
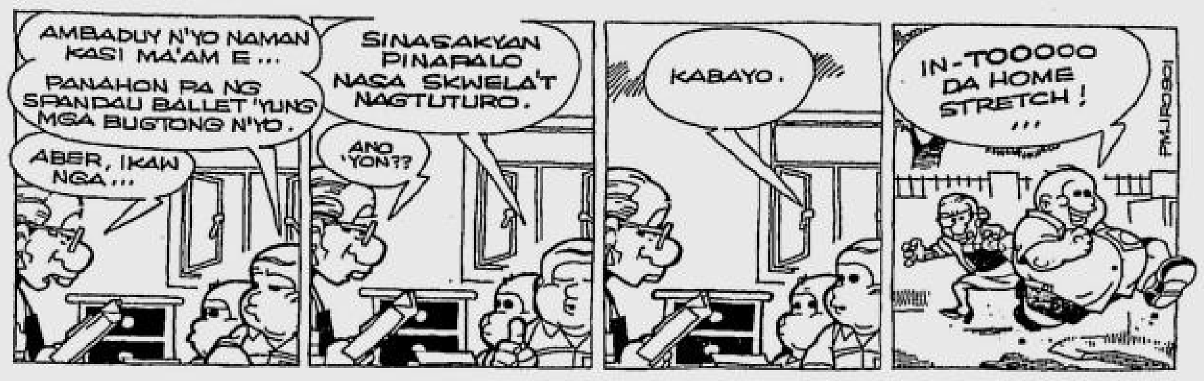
7/24/01

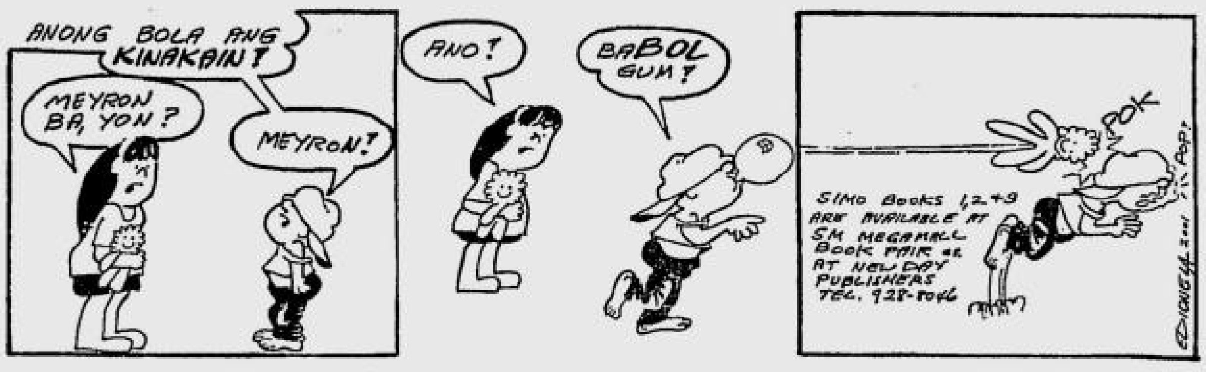
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KAPANI-PANIWALA ANG EXPOSE' KO
OWS?
KASI DALA KO ANG MGA DOCUMENTS KO!
ANG DAMI NAMANG TICKET NG BIYAHE MO!
KASI NGA PATI TICKET NG BUS NANDITO!

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


AMBADUY N'YO NAMAN KASI MA'AM E...
PANAHON PA NG SPANDAU BALLET 'YUNG MGA BUGTONG N'YO.
ABER, IKAW NGA...
SINASAKYAN PINAPALO NASA SKWELA'T NAGTUTURO.
ANO 'YON??
KABAYO.
IN-TOOOOO DA HOME STRETCH! ...
PMJR0801

SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANONG BOLA ANG KINAKAIN?
MEYRON BA, YON?
MEYRON!
ANO?
BABOL GUM?
POK
POP!
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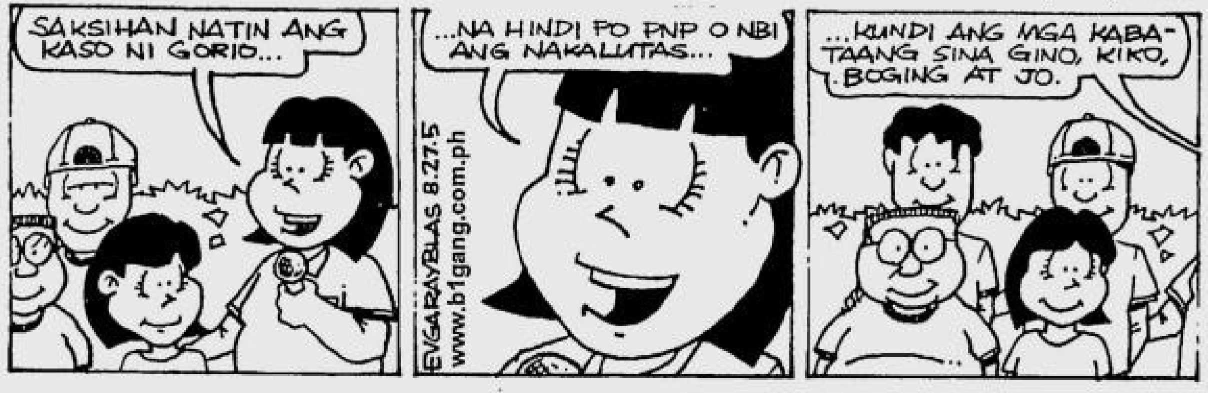
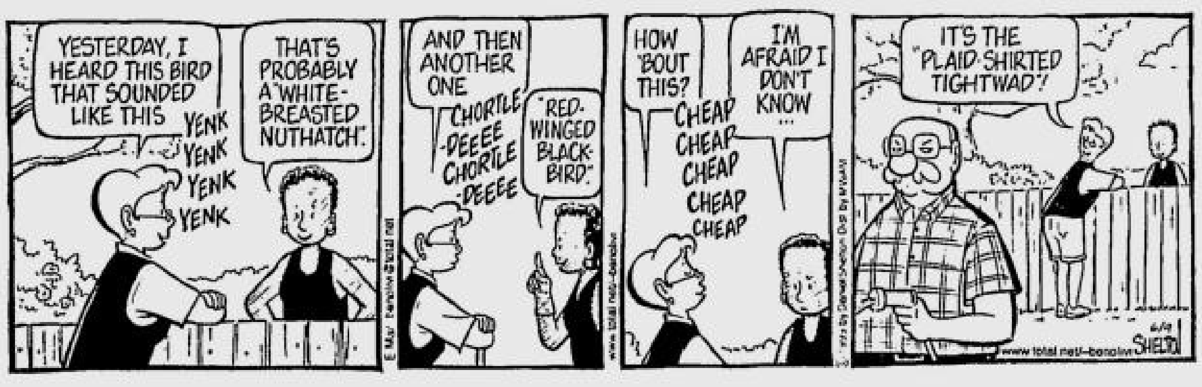
EDIONELA 2001

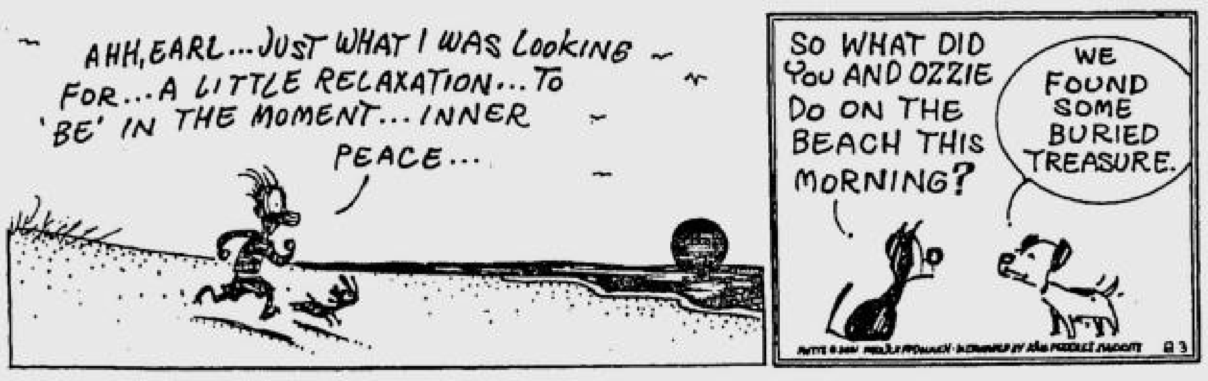
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SAKSIHAN NATIN ANG KASO NI GORIO...
...NA HINDI PO PNP O NBI ANG NAKALUTAS...
EVGARAYBLAS 8.27.5
www.b1gang.com.ph
...KUNDI ANG MGA KABATAANG SINA GINO, KIKO, BOGING AT JO.

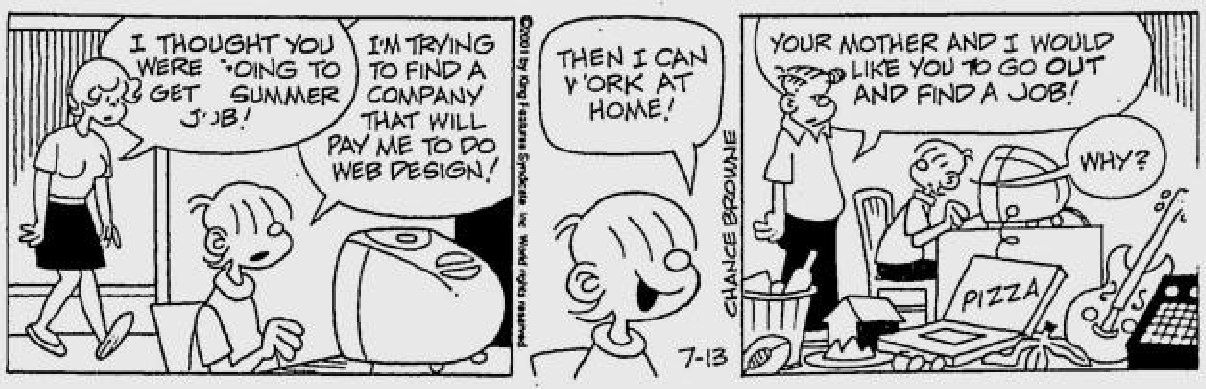
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


YESTERDAY, I HEARD THIS BIRD THAT SOUNDED LIKE THIS
YENK YENK YENK YENK
THAT'S PROBABLY A "WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH".
AND THEN ANOTHER ONE
CHORTLE-DEEEE CHORTLE-DEEEE
"RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD".
HOW 'BOUT THIS?
CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ...
IT'S THE "PLAID-SHIRTED TIGHTWAD".
SHELTON

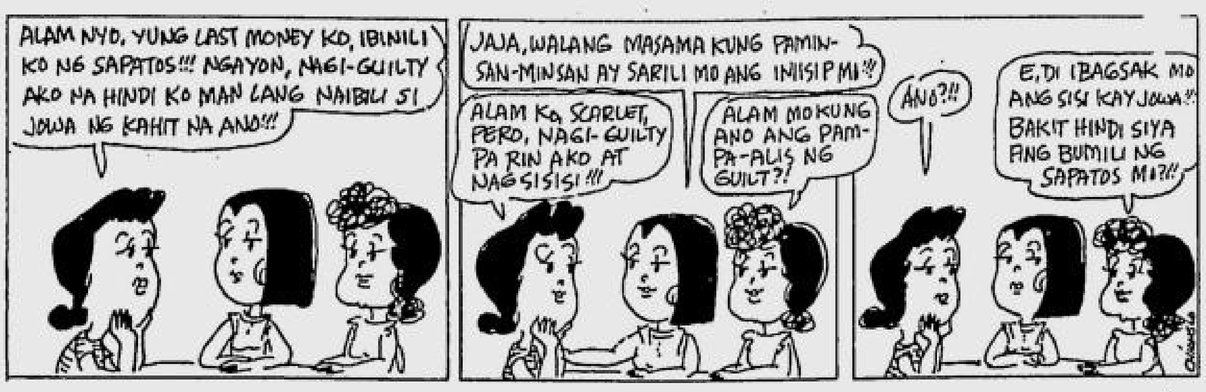
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH, EARL... JUST WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR... A LITTLE RELAXATION... TO 'BE' IN THE MOMENT... INNER PEACE...
SO WHAT DID YOU AND OZZIE DO ON THE BEACH THIS MORNING?
WE FOUND SOME BURIED TREASURE.
8 3

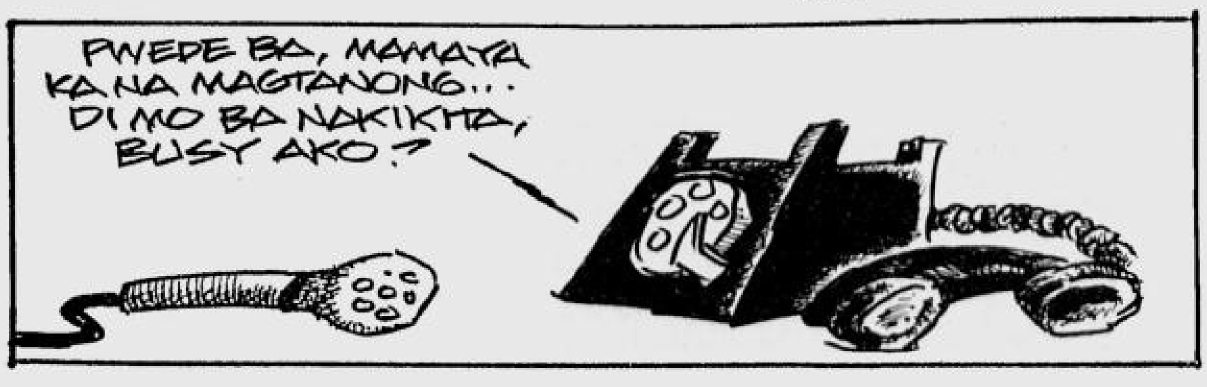
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO GET SUMMER JOB!
I'M TRYING TO FIND A COMPANY THAT WILL PAY ME TO DO WEB DESIGN!
THEN I CAN WORK AT HOME!
CHANCE BROWNE
7-13
YOUR MOTHER AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO GO OUT AND FIND A JOB!
WHY?
PIZZA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGCO


ALAM NYO, YUNG LAST MONEY KO, IBINILI KO NG SAPATOS!!! NGAYON, NAGI-GUILTY AKO NA HINDI KO MAN LANG NAIBILI SI JOWA NG KAHIT NA ANO!!!
JAJA, WALANG MASAMA KUNG PAMINSAN-MINSAN AY SARILI MO ANG INIISIP MI!!
ALAM KO, SCARLET, PERO, NAGI-GUILTY PA RIN AKO AT NAGSISISI!!!
ALAM MO KUNG ANO ANG PAMPA-ALIS NG GUILT?!
ANO?!!
E, DI IBAGSAK MO ANG SISI KAY JOWA!! BAKIT HINDI SIYA ANG BUMILI NG SAPATOS MI?!!

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

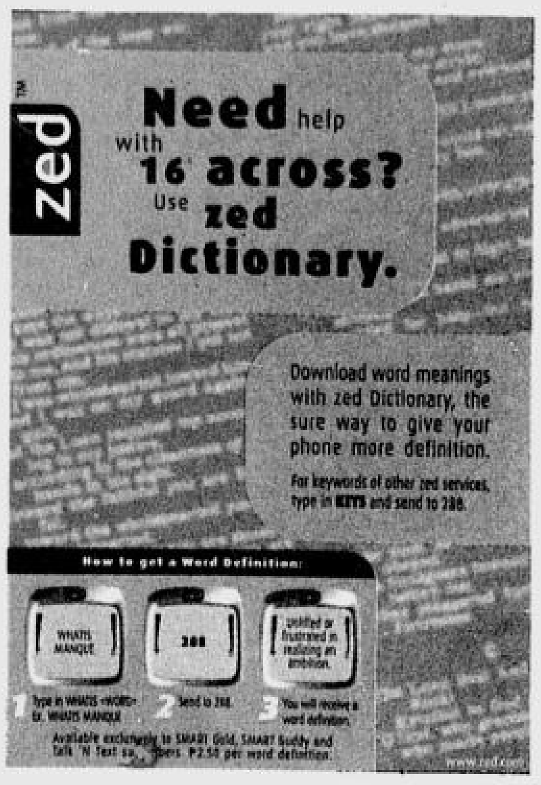

PWEDE BA, MAMAYA KA NA MAGTANONG... DI MO BA NAKIKITA, BUSY AKO?

INNO Sotto

TONI Parsons

ED Calma

Seven of the country's most creative names interpret the famous bottled water company's logo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Evian's magnificent 7

By Margie T. Estrella
Photos by Betoy Johnson

AFTER THE SUCCESS last year of Evian's Millennium Bottle (a glass container shaped like a drop of water), the water company undertook Milan 2000, in which some of Italy's best designers came up with their renditions of the container.

Evian also wants to reach out to the other parts of the world. In this connection, the Philippines is the first country in Asia to launch Evian's Designer Labels. Since fashion and design are Evian's strongest links, the company pooled some of the best talents in the country to interpret its label. The artists included National Artist for Visual Arts Arturo Luz, architect Eduardo Calma, chef Margarita Fores, furniture designer Budji Layug, florist Toni Parsons, makeup man Patrick Rosas and fashion designer Inno Sotto. The event at the Enterprise Center paid tribute to their talents and years of hard work.

How did they make it to the top of the heap?

Being good

Arturo Luz simply wants to be a good artist. Of course, the terms "good" and "artist" are subject to different interpretations. Since it is difficult to please everyone at once, Luz doesn't spread himself too thin.

Luz came up with the concept for his label based on clarity, simplicity and identity, the hallmarks of his works. He used his own signature written in white against a bold red background. "Can anything be more personal?" he asks.

International furniture and interior designer Budji Layug also used his own signature in gold as contrast to his aquamarine backdrop. Layug leads Movement 8, a team of designers and manufacturers promoting modern Philippine furniture in the global market. The Movement 8 reflects quality workmanship and contemporaneity of the Filipino designer. Although the designs are based on indigenous origins, the lines are sleek and light to fit today's lifestyle. Layug hopes to create a distinct Southeast Asian style.

This month, Layug is flying to Spain to inspect his showroom in the tony district of Salamanca, Madrid. Like Budji and B at Home in Makati, the place is a window to the region.

Making space

The newly created labels were exhibited in and around 350 meters of paper designed and strategically placed by architect Eduardo Calma. With his keen understanding of space, he wanted to create a stage for the labels to be displayed while at the same time making the stage itself a work of art. Calma placed each in such a way that the space and the objects being displayed complemented one another. He showed his respect for lines and texture by designing a label that could be appreciated by sight and touch with the use of embossed lines and dots.

His vision is to architecturally create something so stirring that will generate a ripple effect. It should inspire others to continue working toward waking up the world. Calma wants to show true life, rather life as it can be. This undertaking is possible he says, "for as long as one surrounds himself with people who share the same vision."

Feeding with passion

Art can be interpreted in different ways. For Margarita Fores, food is what drives her to create. Food, like water, is needed to sustain life. Her vision is to be able to give back what she has received and perhaps even a bit more since she herself has been so blessed. But like everything in life, such gifts and talent come with a price.

Fores admits that it's her fear of failure that sometimes prevents her from delving into new challenges. It's not easy to produce something that's too innovative in a society that thrives on the status quo.

Still, she rises to the challenge that she comes across by believing that she can do anything with a lot of perseverance. If all else fails, getting involved in any project, successful or not, adds to her growth.

These experiences aid her to do even better in her future tasks. Fores chose the spoon to be the main focus of her label since her goal is "to feed with passion." Ornately decorated and accompanied by her official "stamp," the work integrates the image of the zesty pepper in flaming orange. To underscore the importance of life and growth, Fores decided to make leafy shade of green the key color in her design.

Floral artisan

Toni Parson's enthusiasm for flowers is evident in her label where she used a single yellow rose. She credits her success to friends who inspired her in landscaping and designing floral arrangements. Multiawarded, she cherishes most the one she received last September, when Bulgari/Rosenthal AG awarded her the "Living With Arts Award.

More than skin deep

Patrick Rosas created origami shapes with painted faces to show the public his passion for bringing out women's inner beauty. His fascination with colors led him to become a makeup artist.

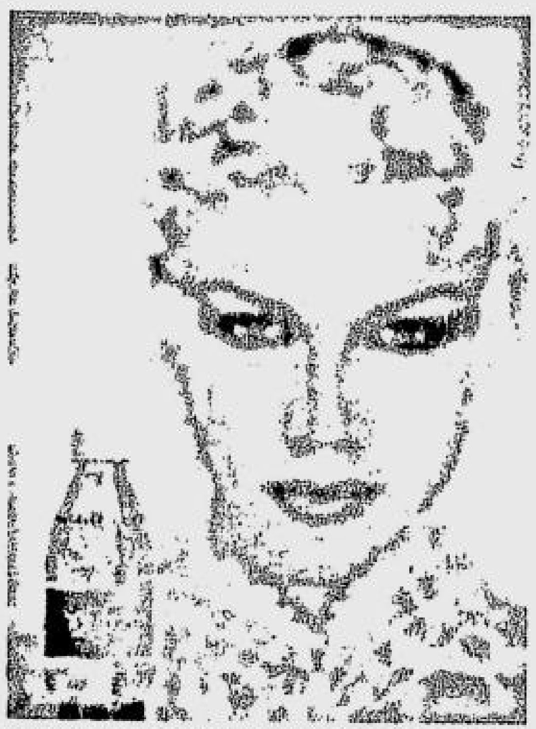
Whether he's making up a blushing bride, an excited debutante or a sophisticated model, Rosas works with eagerness and strives to create the perfect look that suits each individual. He needs discipline. With so much creativity, it can be quite hard to harness it. But still, it is this creativity that keeps him going. "Punctuality, taste and open-mindedness" are aspects he incorporates in his work.

Inno Sotto constantly excels in his work. A few years ago, he embarked on redefining Filipino fashion. He wanted to promote the Filipino as a global designer who makes clothes for reality. With his colleagues, he came up with such fashion shows as the Asean Design Show that were not merely entertainment but a showcase for designers.

With Josie Natori, he established the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines that aims to improve the standards of local fashion and boost its marketability. With the help of the government, the Council invited lecturers and teachers from New York and Paris to train aspiring designers. Sotto recently joined the Movement 8.

ARTURO Luz

MARGARITA Fores


PATRICK Rosas' interpretation of the label

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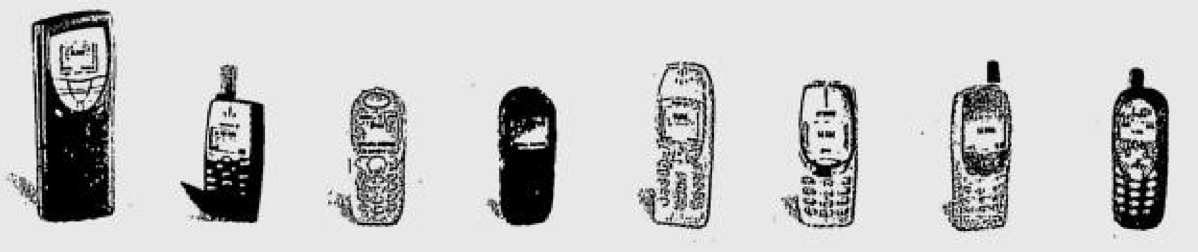

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Executive ₱1,997	36,000	13,000	11,000	11,000	9,500	6,000	3,100	1,500
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Executive ₱1,997	32,000	9,000	7,000	7,000	5,500	2,000	FREE	FREE
CEO ₱2,662	29,500	6,500	4,500	4,500	3,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
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Cost of Prepaid Phone Kit if 1st line is **CEO**	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8,190	5,090	3,490
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LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

DID you think this was a T-shirt? The jersey top goes with this taffeta ball skirt.

This designer never rests on his laurel

Rajo Laurel pays tribute to the Victorian-Edwardian period and Op Art in his third gala

(Story on page D6)

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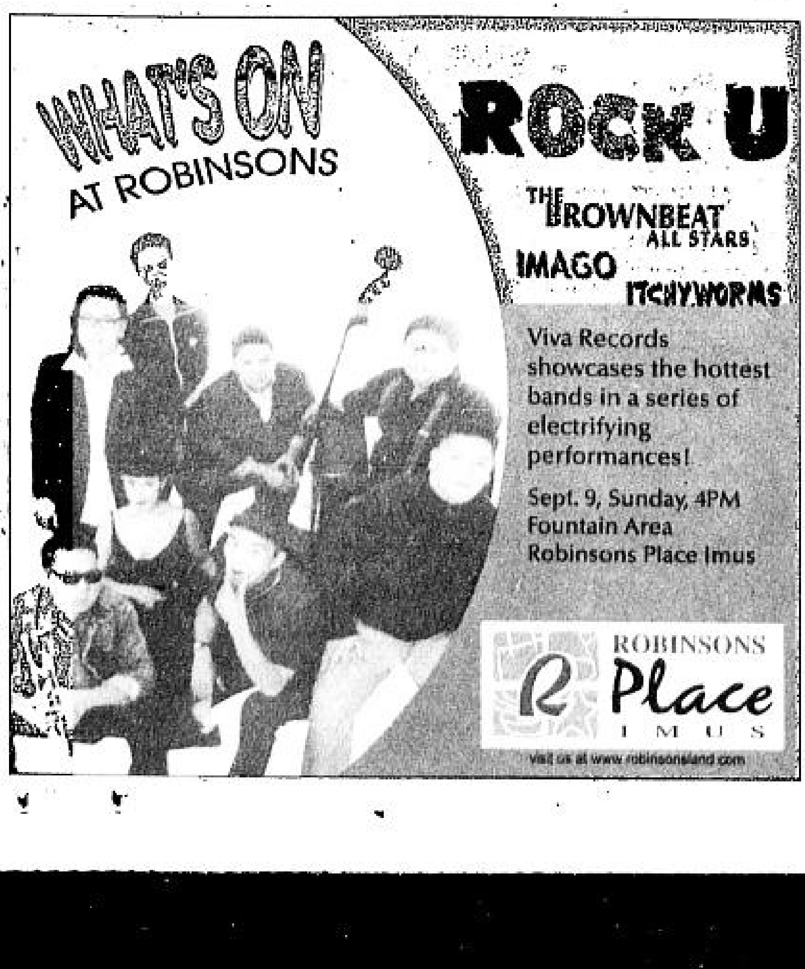
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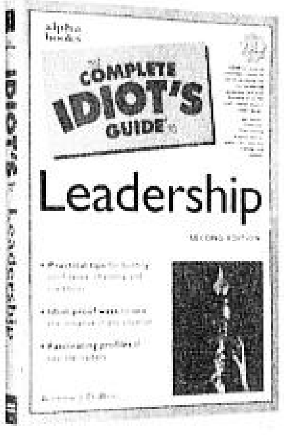
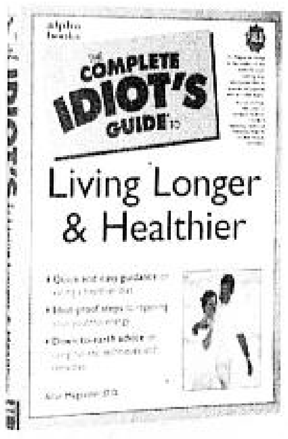
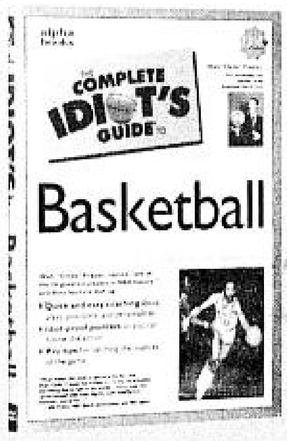
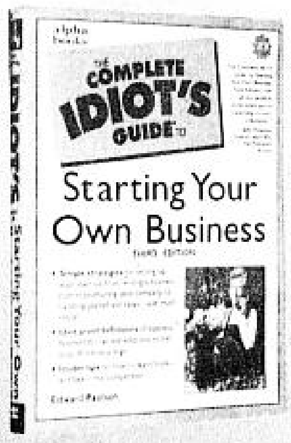
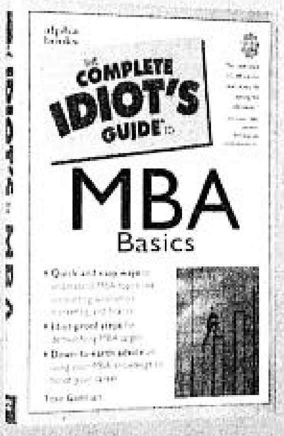
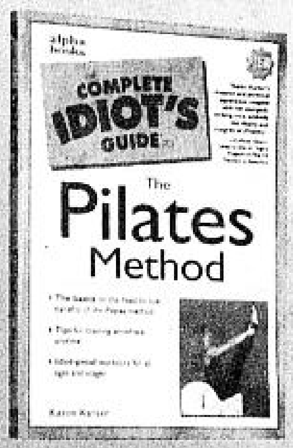

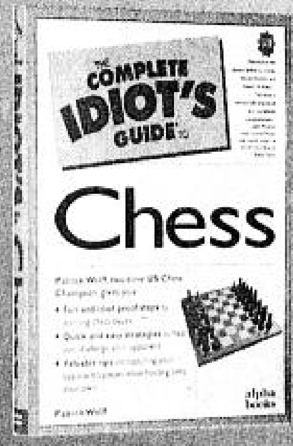
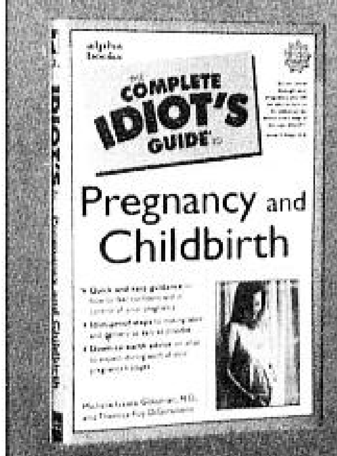
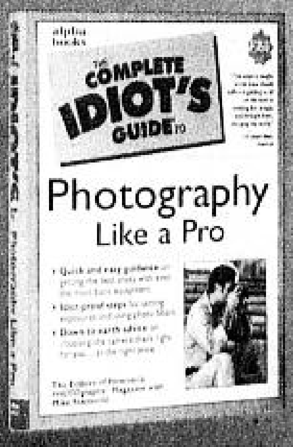
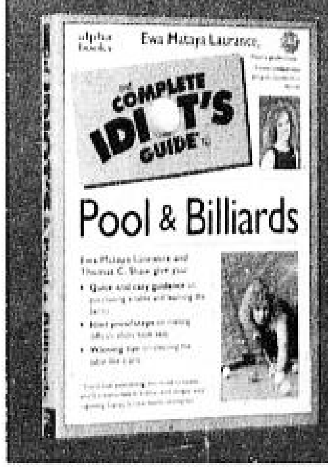
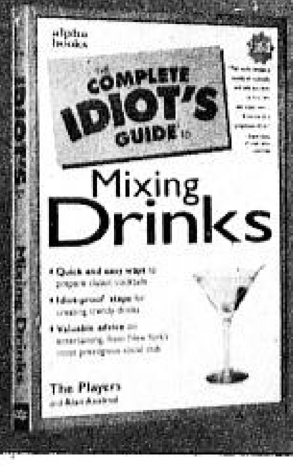
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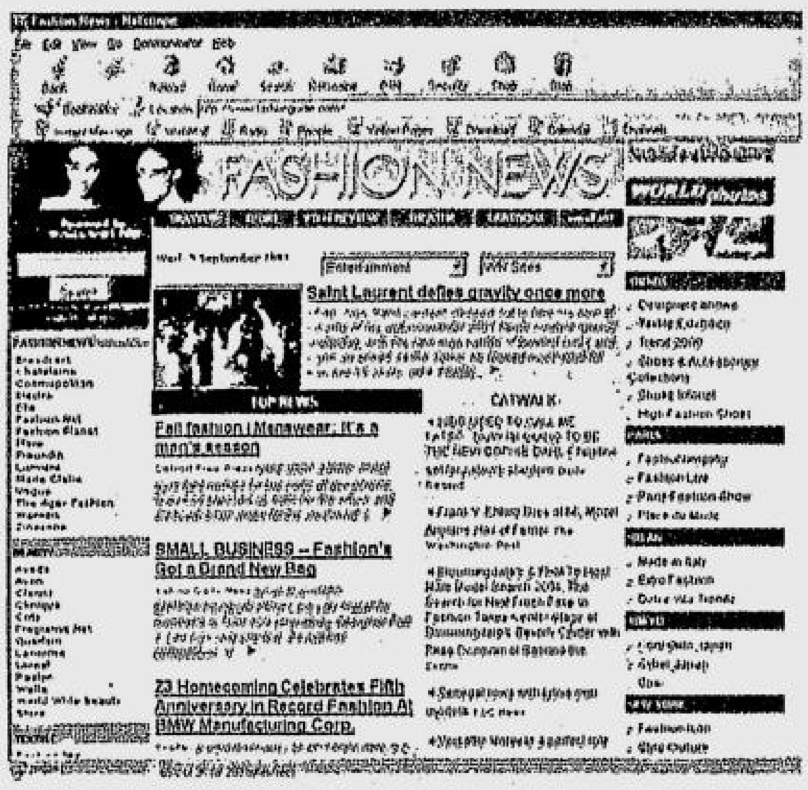
Web alternatives to that hefty September Vogue issue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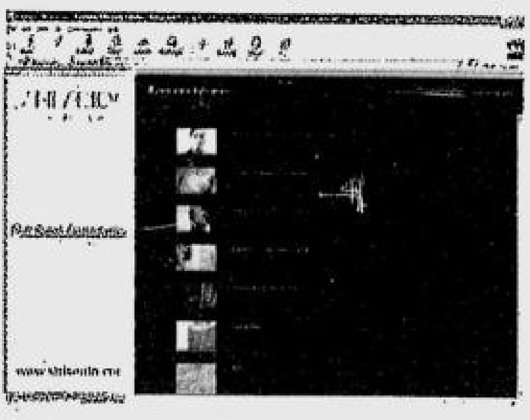
CATWALK
WORLD

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA-WEIGHING September issue of Vogue is out now and it costs as much as a book. Logging on to www.style.com, the online home of Vogue and W, one can access the editor's top 10 picks and other selected features. Of course, you won't get all the featured articles, but there is enough information to give you an idea of what's hot. With a click of the mouse we can keep abreast of the latest fashion trends without spending too much money. Not only are your favorite glossies online (in abbreviated form, of course), there are a number of Web-based fashion magazines that are intelligent, informative and well-designed.

If you're really into fashion, check out www.fashionguide.com. This is like CNN for fashionistas. Not only are the latest runway collections featured, but industry news as well. The same goes for www.fashion.net which, for some reason, is a mirror site of the widely popular www.lumiere.com. You can subscribe via e-mail and be the first to find out new stories, like how Vogue's Andre Leon Tally has just been paid six figures to publish a book. There are also a number of links to anything fashion related that could easily translate to hours of Internet surfing.

If you do not have the money to buy the latest Vogue or Bazaar, take the style information super-runway



STYLE
full on fashion

At www.fashionavigator.com there are tons of pictures. They have off the street trends from New York every month as well as features on the fashion collections from Europe. Right now they're running a "Red is hot" feature with a slide show of red outfits from different designers this season. There's also www.fashiondig.com, which has everything from shopping to black and white "fashion dig" Web cards.

Fashion shows

To view actual fashion shows, go to www.virtualrunway.com. You can pick from slide shows or, if you have a fast connection, view movies. The fall and winter collections of Anna Sui, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Victor Alfaro and many more are available. There are also articles on fashion as well as a question and answer feature.

For a younger set or if couture is not really your thing, check out www.fashionicon.com. This site doesn't follow the cutting-edge design of sites like www.hintmag.com, but it is funky in its own right. Aside from monthly features, they give practical advice like "how to make the perfect hippy jeans at home." (Just use bleach.) They also have advice on fashion emergencies as well as a discussion board called the style summit.

Another widely acclaimed site is www.ntouch.ac.uk. This is a fashion magazine by the students at the London College of Fashion. It is very sleek and modern and easy to navigate despite the fact that you need a flash plug-in. It comes with a soundtrack and has an almost Japanese anime look to it. The articles have meat, like one this month on what Mod really is all about.

Many high-profile Internet shopping sites have gone bust mainly because of hubris. They spent too much money on heavy advertising, mega launches and they pirated big-time industry people to work for them. Not surprisingly, they went bankrupt within a year.

However, the little-known sites, mostly start-ups, seem to have survived the dot-com meltdown and it looks like they are the future of on-line shopping. Given our disastrous exchange rate and floundering economy, I doubt that many would fork out hard-earned money for clothes no matter how gorgeous. But if you have the disposable income, here are a few sites that have interesting stuff and ship worldwide. It's also worth browsing these sites just to get ideas. After all, who says we can't copy?

At www.languagee-nyc.com you can snatch up Jemima Khan tops and Rafe bags. The much-coveted Colette Malouf ponytail holders are also available as well as funky leather cuffs and fluorescent chokers. This lifestyle store based in New York's NoLita district (North of Little Italy) also carries Chloe, Pucci, John Bartlett and many more.

If the originality of London streetwear is more your thing, then go to www.londonwide.co.uk for retro bags with original '70s materials from "Traffic." They also have vintage dresses as well as T-shirts from brands like Nicki Pumpkin, Cultural Treachery and Rude.

'Hyper edited'

The site www.styletrek.com calls itself a "hyper edited shopping experience." They claim to have the best of the most interesting design resources from all over the world. What can you find here? Hand-dyed vintage slip dresses and kimono-inspired bags. They also carry the e.vil line of T-shirts that have been featured in magazines like I.D. and Nylon. They are mostly sleeveless shirts without a neck hole. They come with instructions on how to customize it yourself—you can make it a sexy V-neck or an asymmetrical off-shoulder shirt or a simple boat-neck tee.

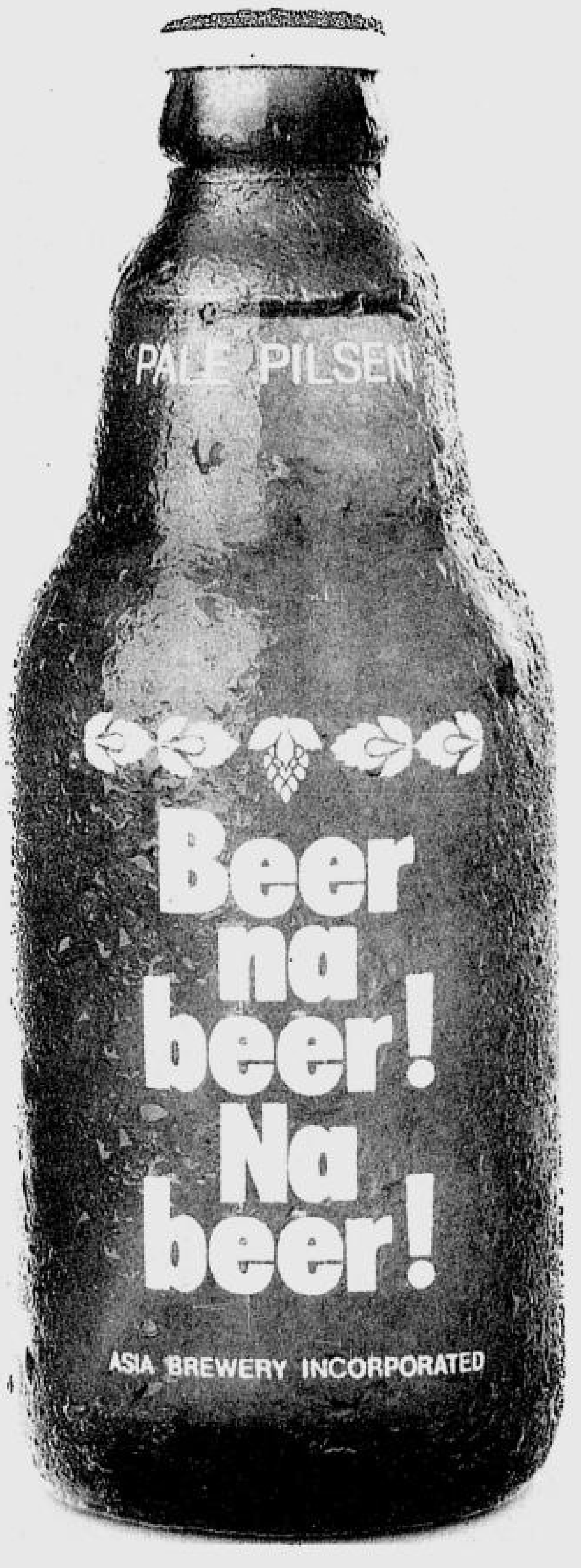
A similar yet more laid-back site is www.girlshop.com. More groovy tees can be found here as well as various accessories. Definitely for the younger set, they carry brands like Cabana 16, Easel and Frolic by David Gilmore.

Now for those with hidden wealth stashed away, www.net-a-porter.com is for you. You can get advance purchases practically as they appear on the runway as well as luxury brands like Jimmy Choo, Marc Jacobs, Clements Ribiero, Jamin Puech, Alberta Feretti and many more—and they ship express. For us mere mortals, this is still a good site to check out the latest trends because the pictures are great and they have articles as well.

Most of the sites are very interactive and require plug-ins like flash or media player. They are free and you only have to download them once. They are well worth it if only to be able to view all these sites optimally.

So those are a few sites for the bored fashionista or for those of you simply wanting to add some oomph to your wardrobe. Read up and improvise, it isn't really necessary to spend to update your look.

E-mail comments to cherishgh@yahoo.com



Beer na Beer, now on its third straight year of winning the Monde Selection Award of Excellence.

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RP's hopes up in 21st SEA Games

Every two years, top athletes gather to compete in Southeast Asia's premier sporting event. Sports enthusiasts in the area regard the Southeast Asian Games, popularly known as the SEA Games, as a prestigious event. Athletes compete in more than 30 different sports to bring glory to their countries. Through the years, the SEA Games has also become a venue for strengthening cooperation and understanding among member countries Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei and Cambodia.

The SEA Games began with the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games or SEAP Games, which was held in Bangkok in 1959. It was the brainchild of Laung Sukhumnaipradit, then vice president of the Thailand Olympic Committee. He had been trying to get the SEAP Games started since 1957. His efforts were rewarded after two years.

The first SEAP Games saw the participation of 527 athletes and coaches from Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand. These countries agreed that the games should be held biennially.

At the 8th SEAP Games in 1975 hosted by Thailand, the SEAP federation voted to consider the inclusion of Indonesia and the Philippines. But it was only on February 5, 1977 in Kuala Lumpur that full recognition was bestowed on both countries. When Malaysia hosted the games in 1977, the name SEAP Games was changed to the 9th Southeast Asian Games or SEA Games, and the SEAP Federation became the SEA Games Federation.

Since then, the SEA Games has become the most important sports competition in Southeast Asia. Membership in the SEA Games has increased to 10, with Cambodia the latest to join. Now athletes compete in 34 sports, including those unique to Asia such as *pencak silat* and *wushu*, and more internationally familiar sports from athletics to swimming. The Games also serve as a springboard for producing world champions. The likes of Indonesians Susi Susanti and Rashid Sidek in badminton, Tamarine Tanasugarn in tennis and the Philippines' very own billiard expert, Efren "Bata" Reyes and long jump queen Elma Muros, have drawn the limelight to the Southeast Asian region in the field of sports.

Filipinos make waves in SEA Games

The Philippines has become an active participant in the SEA Games since its initial participation in 1977. Our country has hosted two SEA Games, in 1981 and in 1991.

From an amazing second place overall in the 16th SEA Games in Manila in 1991, the Philippines was third in the 17th SEA Games in Singapore in 1993, and in Thailand in 1995. During the 20th SEA Games in Brunei in 1999, the Philippine team reaped a total of 19 gold medals, putting the country in fifth place in the medal standings.

This year, the Philippine team and 10 other competing nations will fly their flags in the 21st SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur from Sept. 8-17. Three hundred thirteen Filipino athletes have been training hard for the upcoming SEA Games.

Among the Filipino athletes who are expected to shine in the sportsfest are billiards wizard Efren Reyes, World Steel Challenge shooting king Jethro Dionisio, and *wushu* championship gold medalist Michael Co. Other athletes in the roster are archery veteran Jennifer Chan, athletics stars Eduardo Buenavista, Lerma Balauitan, Elma Muros and Roy Vence; boxing champs, Arlan Lerio, Danilo Lerio, Larry Semillano and Romeo Brin; and divers Zardo Domenios and Shiela Perez.

Filipinos have high hopes that this year, the country's ranking will improve.

Sugod Pinoy, and bring home the gold!

OUR ATHLETES train in Baguio

MILO 'Sugod Pinoy!' cheers

MILO, the Olympic Energy Drink, is a leading supporter of the Philippine teams to local and international sports competitions. Through its various campaigns, MILO has helped boost the morale of Filipino athletes, and rouse the nationalistic spirit of the youth, increasing their awareness and interest in sports.

In 1988, MILO launched the "Salute to the Filipino Olympian" Campaign to rally behind the Philippine Team competing in the Seoul Olympics. Three years later in 1991, MILO reinforced its association with the SEA Games by launching its "Go Philippines" Campaign for the 16th SEA Games in Manila. Subsequently, the "MILO Support Our Team" Campaign was launched in 1996 to support and encourage RP athletes at the Atlanta Olympics. In 1997, a campaign was launched for the delegation to the 19th SEA Games. Last year, MILO collected a million cheers of encouragement from the youth across the country for the Sydney-Olympics bound athletes.

This year, MILO spearheads a new campaign to boost the Philippine Team in the upcoming SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur—the MILO Cheers Campaign.

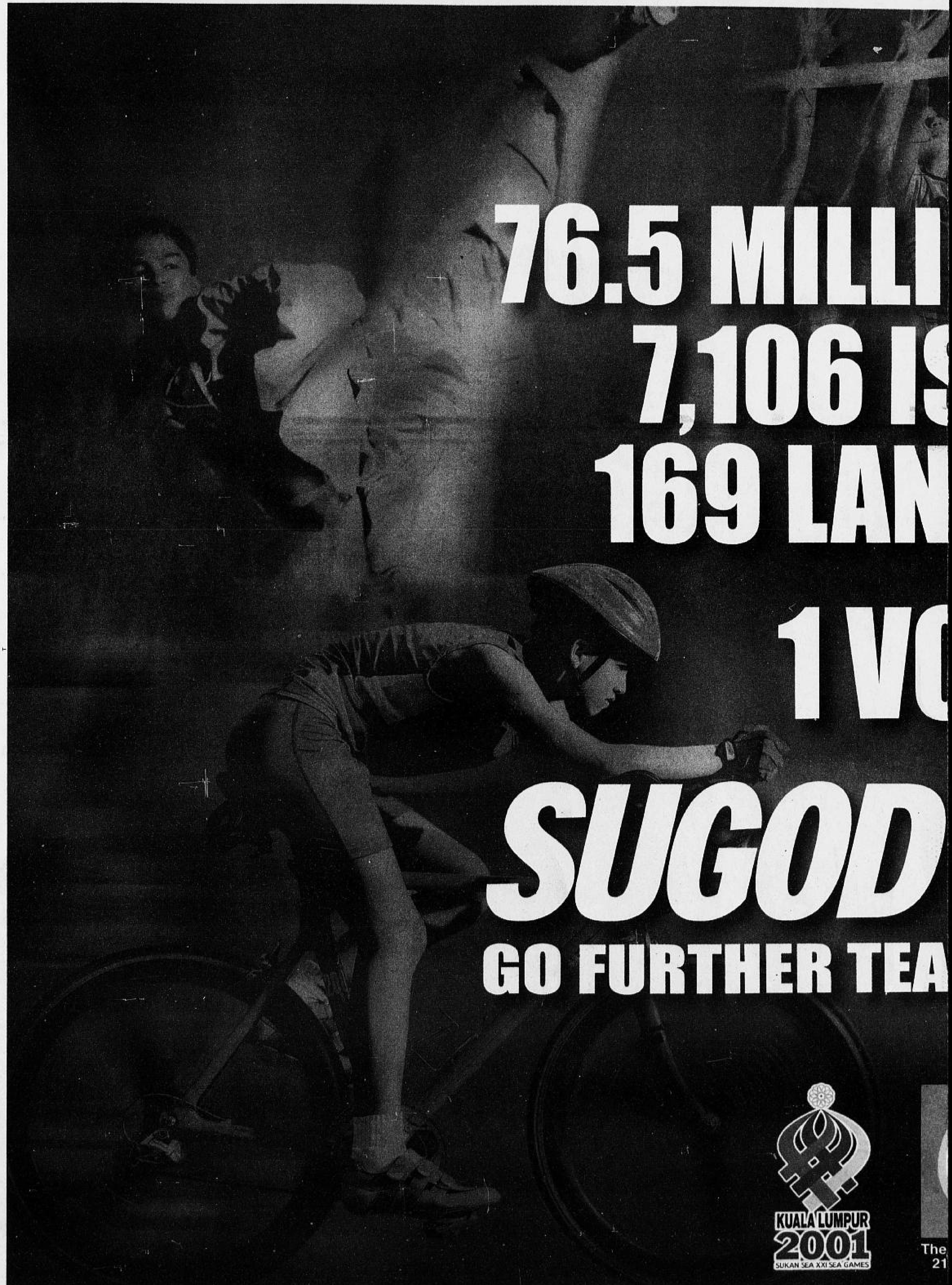
In 1991, when our country hosted the 16th SEA Games,

our national volleyball team p
sians. Thousands of spectators
the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. N
crowd overshadowed the Filipin
Indonesian cheer being shoute
Filipinos sung the Christmas s
apparent reason. Instead of insp
the national contingent's loss.

This insight inspired MILO
paign intended to provide the
official cheer. The campaign du
Our Team A Cheer," was launch

Conrado Jaime, MILO sport
in the past, the country never
athletes competing in interna
MILO Cheers Campaign, we
morale of our team and rouse
fellow Filipinos," he, added.

MILO Energy Teams visited
all over the country and conduct
than a million students from M
Bacolod, Lipa, Naga, Pampanga
Cagayan de Oro chose their favo



...eved as one of the Indone-
...ganized the games held at
...oticeably, the Indone-
...spearhead a cheers cam-
...Filipino athletes with an
...ed last August.
...executive, observed that
...had a single cheer for its
...ional events. "With the
...will be able to boost the
...the sense of unity of our

...private and public schools
...ed a cheer selection. More
...ro Manila, Davao, Cebu,
..., Pangasinan, Baguio and
...the cheer among five titles:

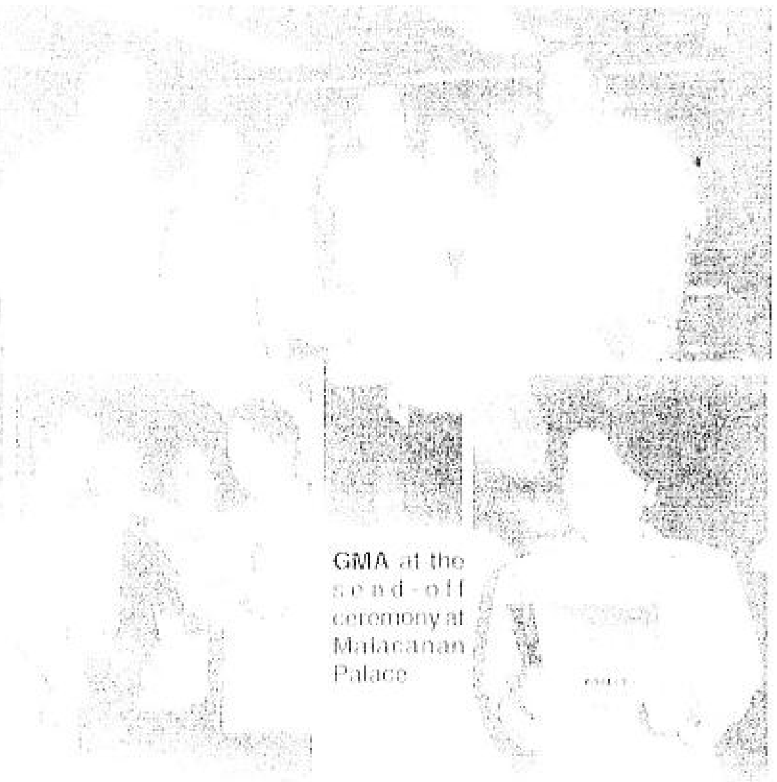
"Mga Pinoy" (to the tune of "Waray-Waray"), "Sa Kenngnpo" (to the tune of "Bongga Ka Day"), "Cue Ko Panalo" (to the tune of "Sitsiritsit"), "Pilipino" (to the tune of "Gloria"), and "Panalo ang Pilipino" (to the tune of "Bonggahan").

"Mga Pinoy" emerged as the most preferred, making it the official cheer for the Philippine Team.

MILO presented the cheers to the athletes in a recent program sponsored by the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The Far Eastern University Pep Squad performed the cheers for the athletes, coaches, officials and dignitaries. MILO fans with the written cheers were given to the crowd, and they sang along with the FEU cheerleaders.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the MILO Cheers campaign at the send-off ceremony for the athletes in Malacañan Palace.

These morale-strengthening efforts in support of the Philippine team have been made possible through MILO's strong partnership with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission.



GMA at the send-off ceremony at Malacanan Palace

[illegible] ceremony [illegible] contingent

MILO, the Olympic Energy Drink, joined the special send-off ceremony for the Philippine Contingent hosted by the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission held at Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace on August 30.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed officials, athletes, coaches, sponsors and media representatives to the special send-off program.

MILO, the Olympic Energy Drink, also had a chance to present the MILO Cheers Campaign to the President. President Arroyo expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the campaign dubbed "Sugod Pinoy! Give Our Team A Cheer."

"Sugod Pinoy!" is a new campaign launched by the MILO Team earlier in August. It was aimed to provide an official cheer to the SEA Games-bound athletes chosen by more than a million students all over the country.

Prior to the send-off ceremony in Malacañan, the Philippine team gathered at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium for an assembly, where a program and lunch was also held. During the assembly, MILO presented the selection of cheers to the athletes through a performance by the Far Eastern University Pep Squad. The crowd were given MILO fans with the written cheers and some familiar tunes like "Waray-waray," "Bonggahan," "Bongga Ka Day," "Sitsiritsit," and "Gloria."

[illegible] MILO!

MILO takes another step in support of Filipino athletes by sponsoring the Philippine Athletics Team that will see action in the 21st Southeast Asian Games.

The team will carry the name "Team MILO" in Kuala Lumpur.

For a number of decades, MILO has actively supported Philippine teams in local and international sports events. Through its strengthened partnership with the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, MILO has launched various "cheers" campaigns to boost the morale of the country's athletes.

Andrew Bramston, Nestlé Philippines vice president for coffee and beverage, said MILO's participation underscores the brand's firm commitment to the development of sports in the country. "Integral to this commitment is MILO's support for our athletes," he added.

Juan Miguel Alvarez, MILO brand manager, said MILO encourages young people to get into sports. "By making our youth aware that our athletes are competing in a prestigious international competition, we hope to stimulate their interest," he added.

The team, which is predicted to reap most of the gold medals among the 10 competing nations in athletics, includes track and field stalwarts Eduardo Buenavista, Lerma Balauitan, Elma Muros, and Roy Vence, who are expected to shine in their events.

MGA PINOY

(To the tune of
"*Waray-Waray*")

Mga Pinoy
Hindi susuko

Mga Pinoy!
Handang lumaban

Mga Pinoy
Matigas

Drum/clap transition
Chant: (to the tune
of Hala Bira!)

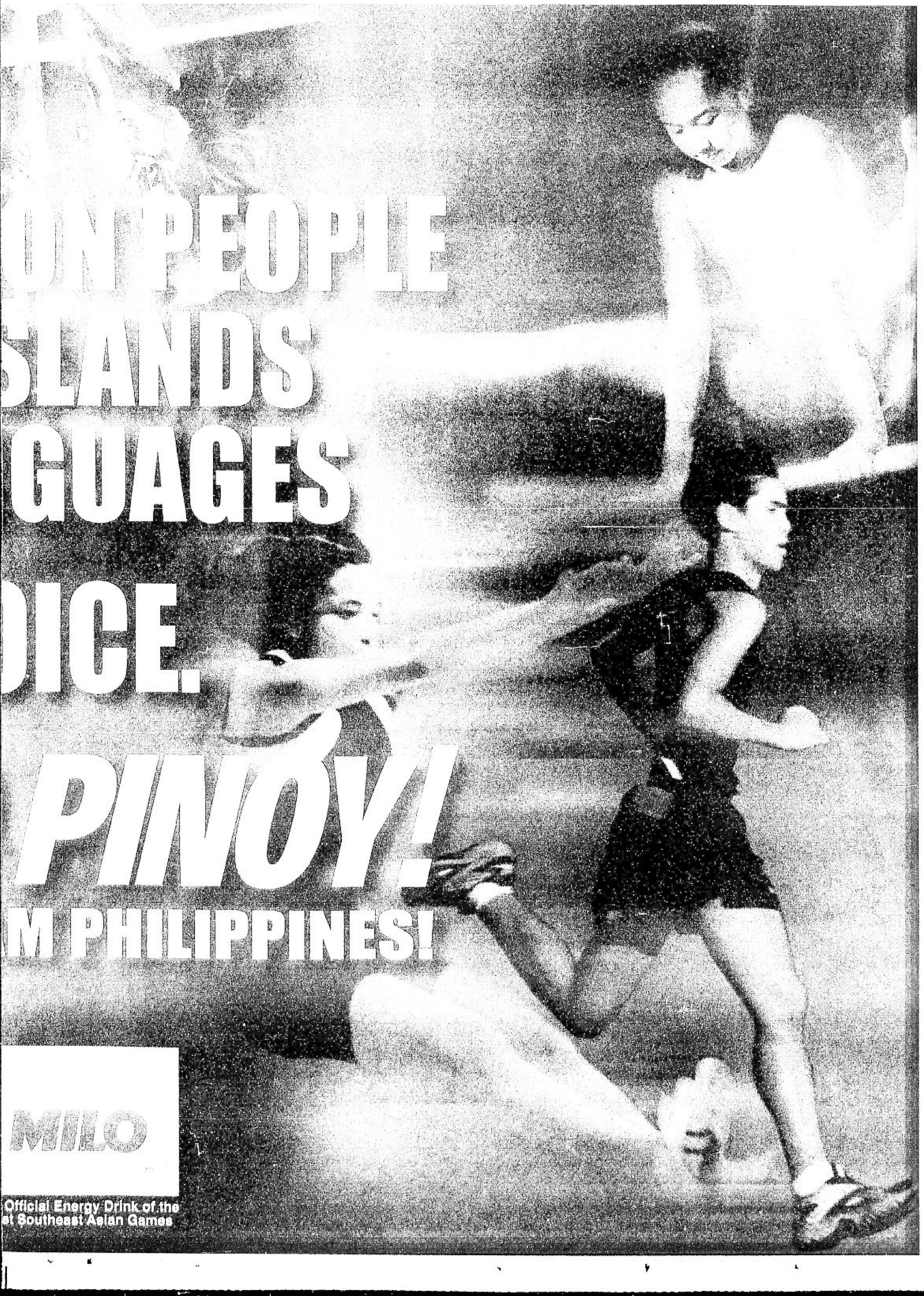
Kaya mo 'yan!
Ka-ba-ba-yan!
Kaya mo yan!
Ka-ba-ba-yan!
Kaya mo 'yan!

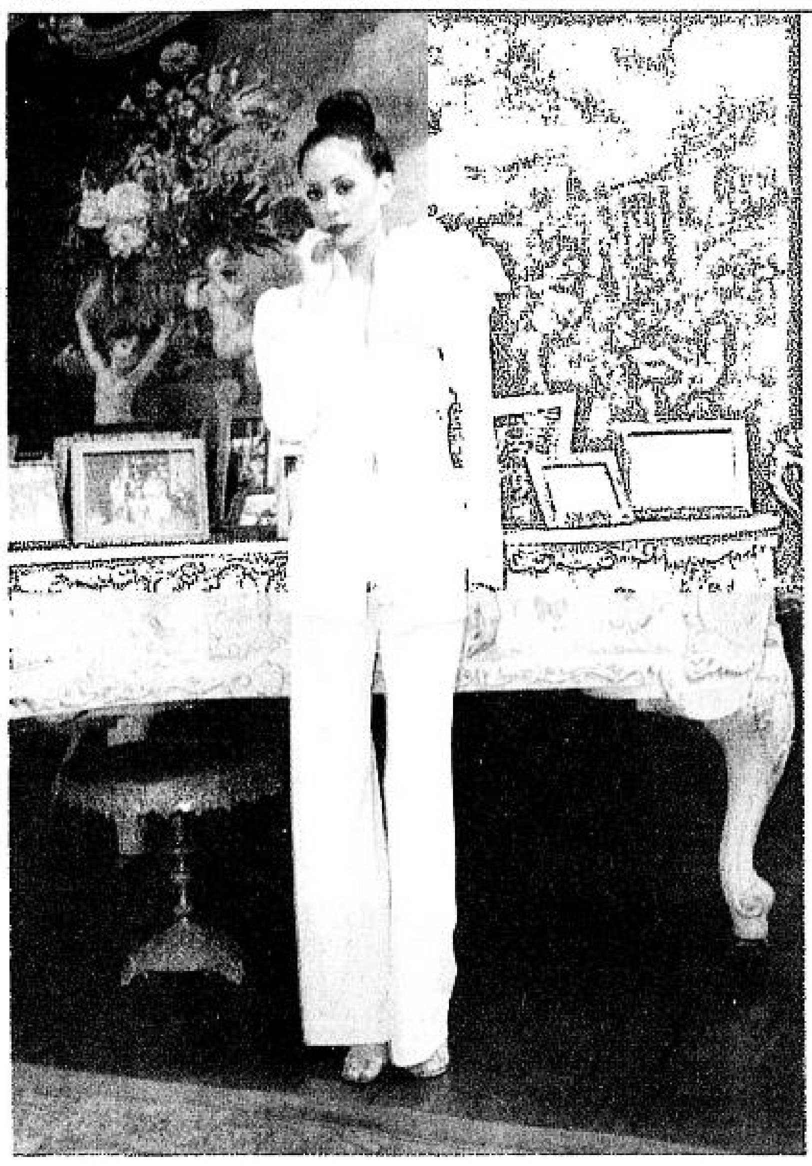
Mga Pinoy!
Sugod ng sugod

Mga Pinoy
Hindi Kukupas

Mga Pinoy
Walang atrasan

Mga Pinoy
Malakas





HOMAGE to YSL's tuxedo jacket in crepe de chine. The loose pants complement the tunic jacket that has slightly pleated sleeves.

THE BACK takes the plunge.

BEADED and pleated wraparound gown

This designer never rests on his laurel

MODEL: SARAH MEIER OF CAL CARRIE
HAIR AND MAKEUP: PATRICK ROSAS AND JAIME RUBEN

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

LIKE a chef girding for a royal banquet, designer Rajo Laurel has been concocting creations that will titillate the senses of his patrons. He describes his Sept. 28 gala at Fort Bonifacio as a buffet of ideas that will offer a variety of styles for his clients to taste and savor, ranging from a play of silhouettes and a contrast of proportions with the waist as the focal point. Rotund women need not worry since Laurel will offer loose silhouettes.

This will be his third gala since he started his career in the early '90s. Projected at a cost of P5.5 million, it boasts of a strong production team, a stage by Ed Calma, the designer's fashion book, music flown in from Europe, a holiday line of eye shadows and lipsticks, and a cuisine that's based on the theme of his show.

Laurel focuses on the Victorian-Edwardian period and Op Art. The themes, though they seem disparate, are similar and drive the spirit of his made-to-measure business.

"I was dazzled by the way Victorian clothes were made, especially the handwork," he says. The tradition of handmade apparel is dying in this era of technology. The making of such details is being replaced by machines.

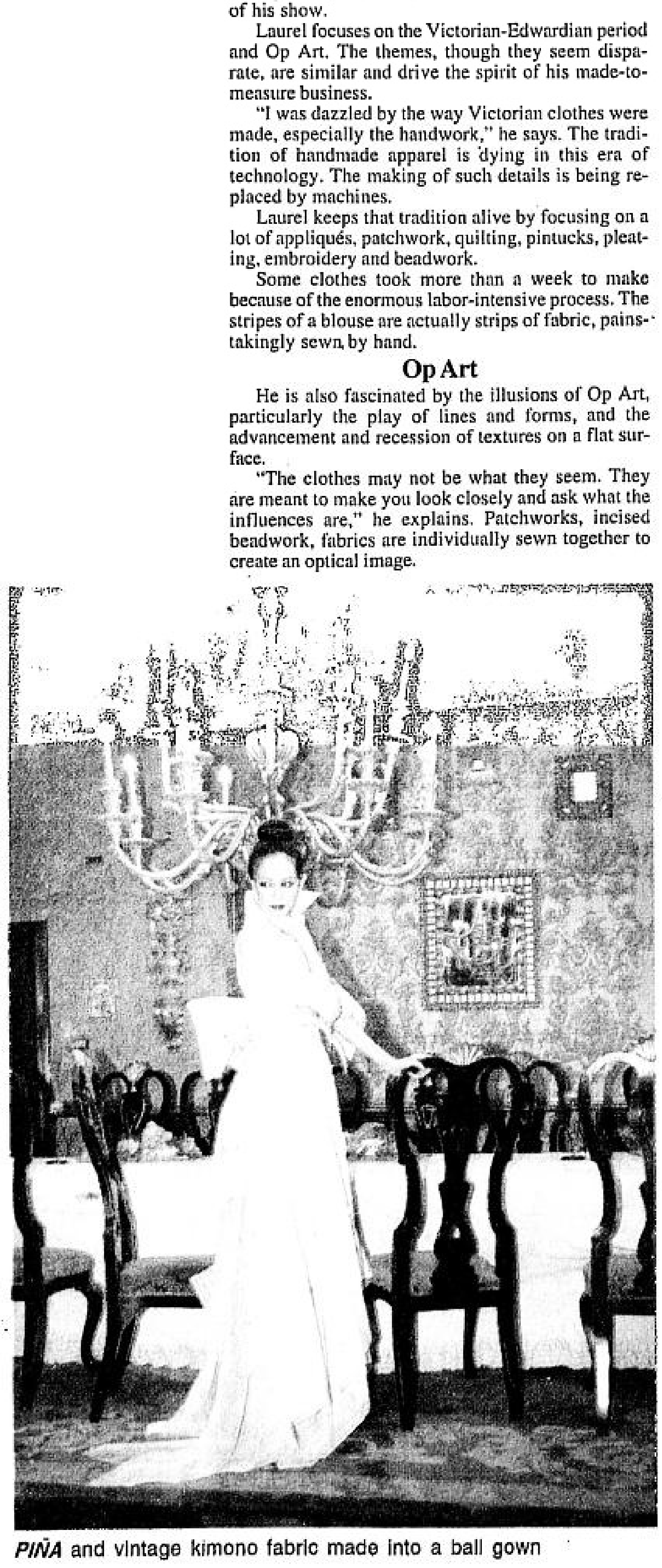
Laurel keeps that tradition alive by focusing on a lot of appliqués, patchwork, quilting, pintucks, pleating, embroidery and beadwork.

Some clothes took more than a week to make because of the enormous labor-intensive process. The stripes of a blouse are actually strips of fabric, painstakingly sewn by hand.

Op Art

He is also fascinated by the illusions of Op Art, particularly the play of lines and forms, and the advancement and recession of textures on a flat surface.

"The clothes may not be what they seem. They are meant to make you look closely and ask what the influences are," he explains. Patchworks, incised beadwork, fabrics are individually sewn together to create an optical image.



PIÑA and vintage kimono fabric made into a ball gown

SARAH wears a crepe de chine top with a deconstructed lace skirt and rose petals.

He qualifies that this is not couture because the techniques are only taught in France. "It's the essence of the labor of love."

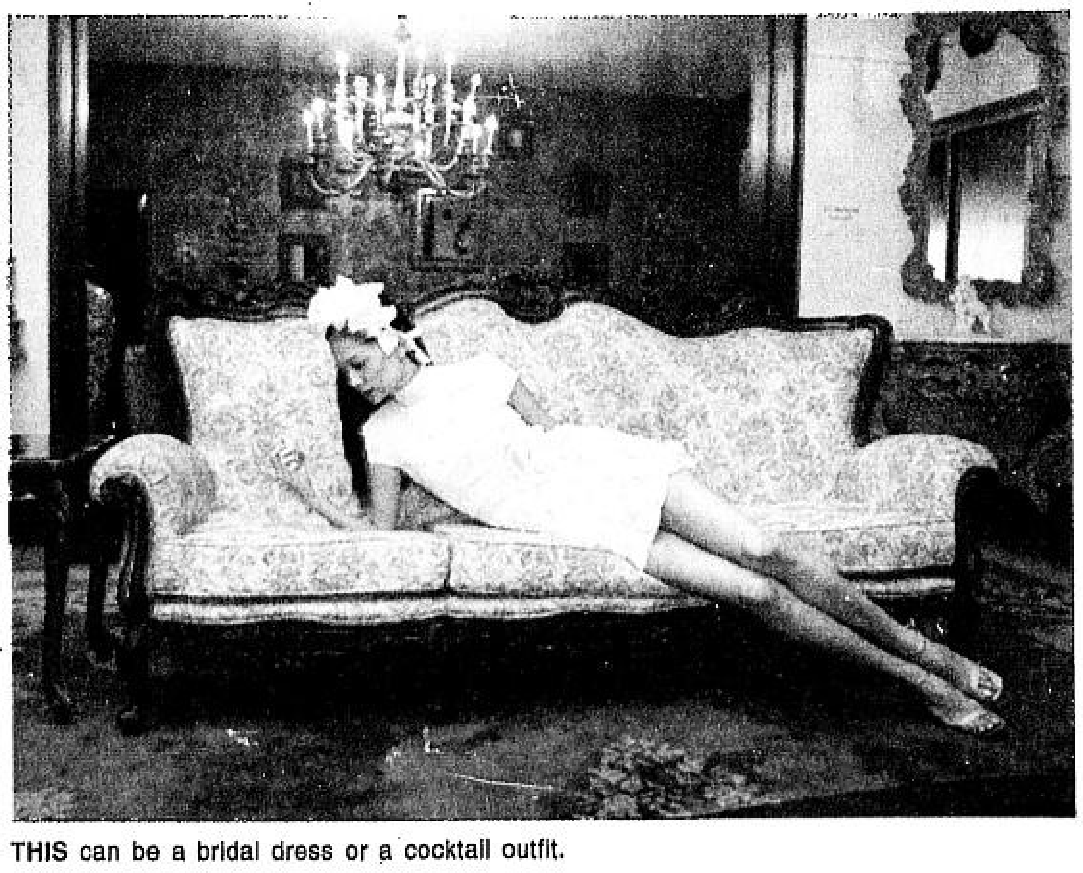
Highly motivated, Laurel is driven by that work ethic. He values self-expression and his solid financial foundation lets him devote his energies to that. He is one of the busiest designers who can meet stiff deadlines. He attributes his efficiency to time management and two production managers who supervise the staff.

Since his student days, Laurel has always been fond of fashion and designing. He pursued his dream by studying fashion design, majoring in illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology.

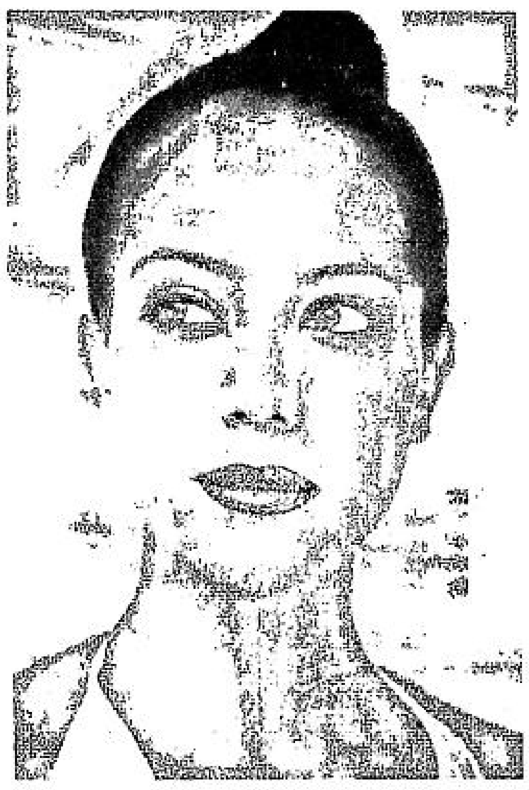
He became an apprentice to such designers as Isaac Mizrahi, Pepito Albert and Louie Mamengo. He learned about colors and fabric from Mizrahi. From Albert, he learned to value proportion, clean lines and drama. From Mamengo, he acquired the femininity and softness with a European flavor.

Ever since Laurel began his career in the early '90s, he has been the darling of the fashion press. He is extremely friendly and provides good sound bites. But being the toast of media has not spared him from negative reviews. In his first gala, he got negative reviews about the pacing, the overdrawn time and the construction. Laurel has taken constructive criticism graciously.

We asked him the standard question given to designers: How do you react when someone says your clothes are badly made? Laurel replies that he takes everything with a grain of salt. Sometimes it can't be helped when a client insists on wearing a new outfit without the benefit of a fitting to iron the kinks out.



THIS can be a bridal dress or a cocktail outfit.



SARAH Meier sports the Rajo Red lip color.

Subjective

On his fashion collections, "badly made" is subjective. "Sometimes what's bad is good," he explains citing Yohji Yamomoto's unfinished hemlines and Martin Margiela's holes and wrinkles.

"It's about acceptance. What seems 'badly made' to one person is 'genius' to another. A collection isn't about being good or bad but about the vision of the designer."

Laurel has women who inspire him to produce a better design. "You need a woman to tell you how a dress feels. I can visualize a design, but only a woman can tell you if it's sexy or sensuous."

He admires Tina Maristela-Ocampo for poise, her gift for pulled-together look and her old-fashioned values. Sarah Meier is his Galatea because of her Eurasian features and long proportions. His neighbor Chris Lopez gives him a reality check if he's going over the top. Arguably the most realistic of all his muses is his sister Venisse who epitomizes Boticellian beauty. While Laurel favors exposed arms and shoulders, Venisse insists on sleeves, which he detests. Yet most of the clothes will feature his treatments on sleeves, thus making the collection extremely "wearable" and friendly to the market with sagging arms. Laurel goes to town with the variety—leg o' mutton, puffed sleeves, raglan, split, dolman, bell and cap.

"Name it, we practically experimented," he says.

Laurel is keeping his collection under wraps. For this shoot, he reveals his Taurean side—a mix of practical dressing in an opulent surrounding.

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Gaisano Mall, Davao City (Sept 29)
SM Manila (Oct 6)
Lim Ket Kai, Cagayan de Oro City (

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Applicants may register in the registration areas in all the mentioned venues. They can also send in pictures, resumes and demo tapes either of themselves or of their friends/talents

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Makati Central Post Office
1256 Makati City, Philippines

- .VJ Hunt Applicants must be 18 years old and above.
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- .Winner of the VJ Hunt 2001 will be announced in the final party on November 24 in Metro Manila. (exact venue not confirmed).
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B'day concert for Mama Mary

THE CONSERVATORY of Music of the University of Santo Tomas will stage a Marian concert on the eve of the Blessed Virgin's birth anniversary tomorrow, 6:30 p.m., at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, popularly known as the UST Chapel.

The concert will feature the performances of Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, organist; Lemuel dela Cruz, Jose Randy Gilongo and Eugene delos Santos, tenors; the Coro Tomasino and the UST Liturgikon; and the UST Symphony Orchestra under Renato B. Lucas, conductor. Choral trainers are Ricardo Mazo Jr. and Eugene delos Santos.

The show, which aims to honor Our Lady through music, is open to the public for free.

GOINGS-ON

SYMPOSIUM. The University of Santo Tomas with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Asian Productivity Organization Society of the Phils. will hold an academe-industry symposium on Sept. 7, 1:30 p.m., at the Albertus Magnus Auditorium, UST College of Education. Call 731-2985.

CONCERT. A benefit concert for cancer victims is slated on Sept. 9, 8 p.m., at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Performing are the UP Madrigal Singers, Hangad, the UP College of Medicine Chorale, the De La Salle University Chorale, the high school glee clubs of St. Scholastica's College, St. Theresa's College, Assumption and San Beda College, and the Psalm Ensemble of the Ellinwood Church of Malate. Tickets are available at the gate. They are priced at P250 each, the price of 1 g of Vincristine, the most commonly used medicine for chemotherapy.

SEMINAR. The Inner Mind Development Institute offers seminar on "Inner Mind Development," Sept. 8 and 9, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.; "Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation," Sept. 15, 1-7 p.m.; and the "Basic ESP and Intuition Development," Sept. 22 and 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The seminars will be held at 308 Prince Plaza Building I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Call 810-7245 or 892-6806.

LECTURE. Noted photographer Mandy Navasero will hold a three-weekend lecture series on Sept. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 at Product & Food Photography, Garden House, Escolastica Street corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Saturday sessions will be from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Call Mandy's Studio at 522-0901/05.

WORKSHOP. ProActive Center for Training will hold a seminar/workshop on catering business on Sept. 10-19, 1-5 p.m., at Café Astoria, lobby of the Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Call 823-4947.

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10 Finalists :	₱4,000 each	₱1,000 each	10 Finalists :	₱4,000 each	₱1,000 each
SPECIAL AWARD :	Cutest Baby ₱3,000	Store Partner ₱1,000			

How to Join Stitch-A-Photo Contest:

1. Just buy a Stitch-A-Photo Kit from your DMC dealer and send order form and your picture to FOCUS Global Inc., Pioneer Cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City 1550. This automatically qualifies you as a registered contestant, if you wish to join.
2. Your Stitch-A-Photo pattern and picture will be sent by mail to you within 2 weeks upon receipt. A free DMC Scissors will also be sent to you if your order form is received from June 15, 2001 to August 15, 2001.
3. Finish the cross-stitch work using the pattern. Minimum design size is 20.32cm x 25.40cm (8"x10"). Only DMC threads and DMC Aida Fabric must be used. For the people category, photo should have a maximum of three (3) people.
4. When finished, place the cross-stitch entry in a tube container and drop at the drop box located at your store partner (Where the Stitch-a-Photo kit was bought.) or send directly to FOCUS Global Inc. Be sure to include the following information:

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• Take note of the Stitch-a-Photo code. This is the 8 digit code found on the barcode sticker at the upper right hand corner of the SAP order form.

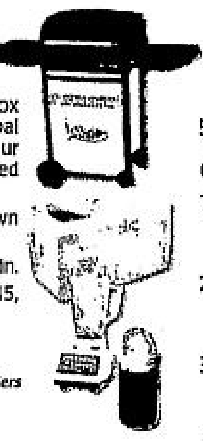
5. A participant can only win once per category. He/She will get the higher prize.

General Mechanics:

1. Raffle draw, selection of Finalists and Grand Finals Judging: February 28, 2002 at FOCUS Global Inc., Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City at 9:00 am. The Judges' decision is final.
2. Winners will be notified by registered mail and will be announced in a leading daily newspaper. Prizes may be claimed at the FOCUS Global Inc. office upon presentation of valid ID. Consolation prizes will be sent via courier.
3. Prizes are tax paid. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from the receipt of the letter of notification, otherwise unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of FOCUS Global Inc. upon approval of DTI.
4. Employees and relatives of FOCUS Global Inc., its ad and promo agencies and DMC dealers up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the promo.

Schedule of Promo Activities	Judging Criteria
Submission Period : June 15, 2001 to Feb. 14, 2002	Quality of Work : 50%
Judging : February 28, 2002	Overall Impact : 40%
Retrieval of entries : April 15, 2002	Creativity : 10%
Exhibit : April 5-7, 2002	

*Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0805 Series of 2001



***How to Join Raffle Draw:**

1. When you submit your Stitch-A-Photo entry, include 4 DMC box flaps with security marks "Exclusively Distributed by Focus Global Inc. for Philippine Market only". On the reverse side, write your name, address, tel. no., signature and SAP codes of kit purchased and drop at participating outlets.
2. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she shall get the higher prize.
3. Those who join this raffle automatically get a free Coleman keychain.
4. Premium items will be given during retrieval of entries on April 15, 2001 at the store where entry was submitted.

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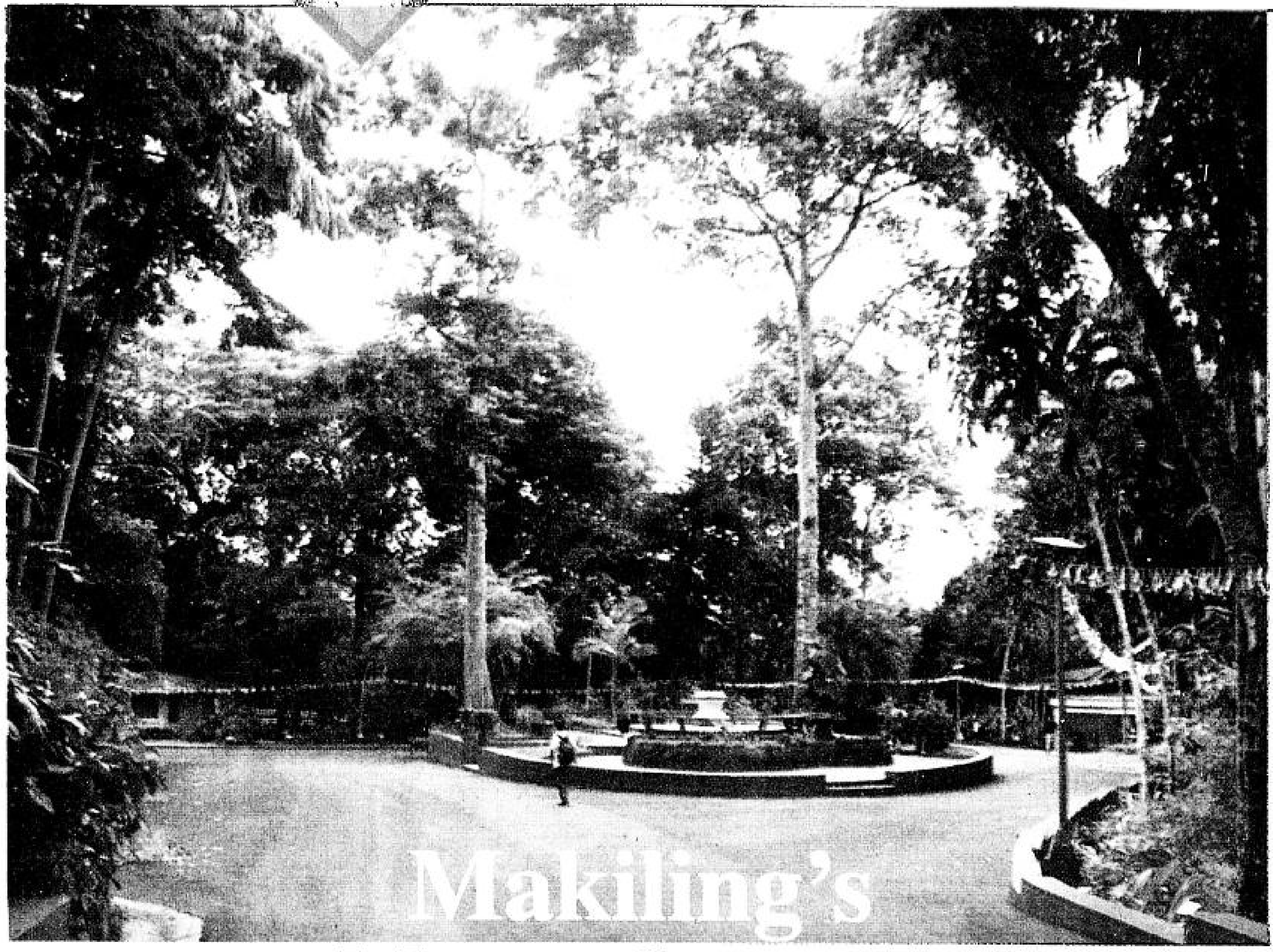

Makiling's goddess of a garden

By Adrian Lizares
Photos by Chito Vecina
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ALBERT AVELLANA

HORTICULTURE and biodiversity are immensely great resources that we can and should draw from. But considering the multitude of crises our country is challenged with, other matters that strike at the core of Filipino life have taken the backseat. The lack of public attention to these issues, particularly the environment, is serious.

In 1912, 300 hectares of an area in Mt. Makiling was established as a reforestation area. In June 20, 1963, then President Diosdado Macapagal enacted into law Republic Act 3523, which provided, among others, the establishment of a botanical garden in Mt. Makiling to support professional instruction and research on forestry and plant sciences for the use and education of the public. It mandated that 10 centavos of every cubic meter of felled lumber be paid for the upkeep of the garden. All logging companies paid this amount to the University of the Philippines College of Forestry. But the payment was stopped by the general appropriations act of 1973 under the presidency of Ferdinand Marcos. Since then, the garden has been left to fend for itself.

MAKILING/p./E2

ONCE a year, this *amorphophallus campanulatus* blooms with the most fetid smelling flower in the forest.

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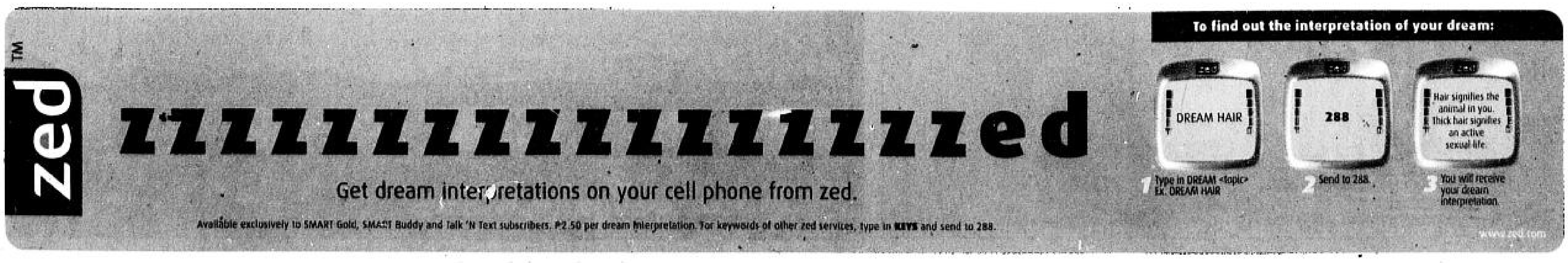
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Makiling's goddess of a garden

THE *BETIS* tree, for which the town in Pampanga is named.

(From page E1)

With great diligence and against the odds, Roberto Cereno and his 22-member staff maintain the Makiling Botanical Garden's (MBG) growing collection of plants, most of which are endemic. These are displayed according to ecological and taxonomic groupings.

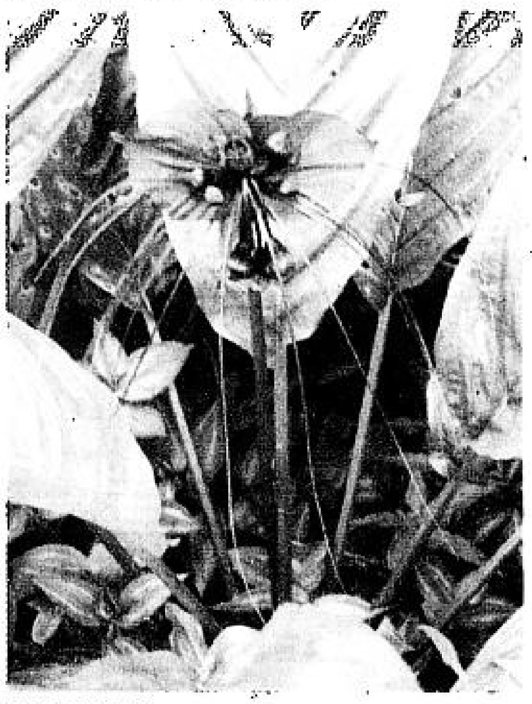
The area used for the various displays and park buildings represent only a third of the actual land area devoted to the park. One area is planted to species found only in our country—those that have the secondary botanical name *philippinensis*. Here, I was alarmed to know that our local teakwood, *tectonis philippinensis*, known as *lobo*, is in danger of becoming extinct—the wood being perfect for charcoal making.

It is also interesting to note that the parent plant of all *mussaenda* species originated in our country. These are the colorful shrubs that are all called Doña, with first lady names appended to them. Even in Indonesia, they are known as Doña.

In the plant world, the Philippines is noted for the *medinilla*. It has in fact a vast number of these species, totaling to 84 altogether. The *medinilla* made

MAKILING/p./E3

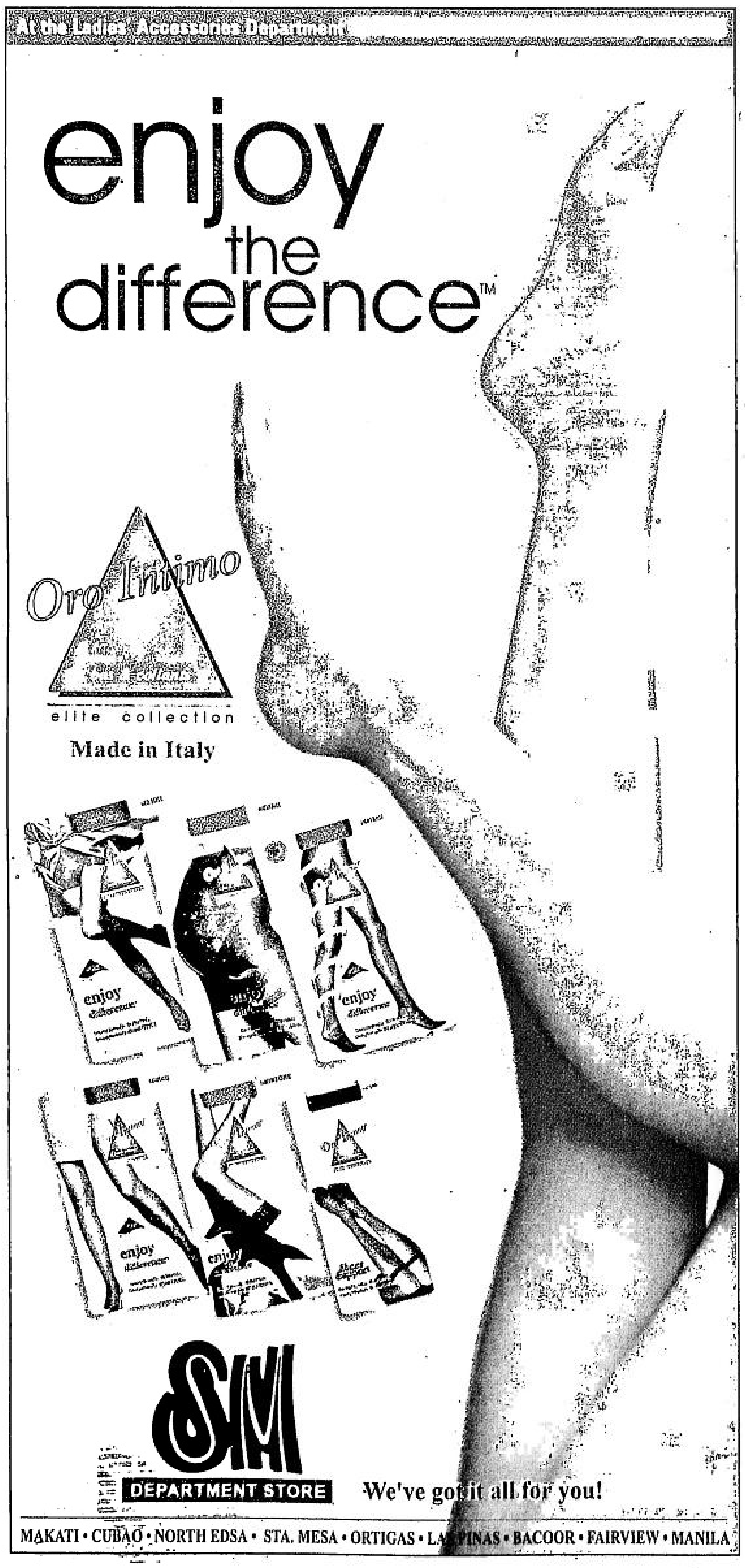
PATTERNS from the forest



THE BAT flower

PLANTED in 1912, this white *lawaan* is a sought-after hardwood variety.

MEDINILLA *magnifica*, a truly Philippine plant



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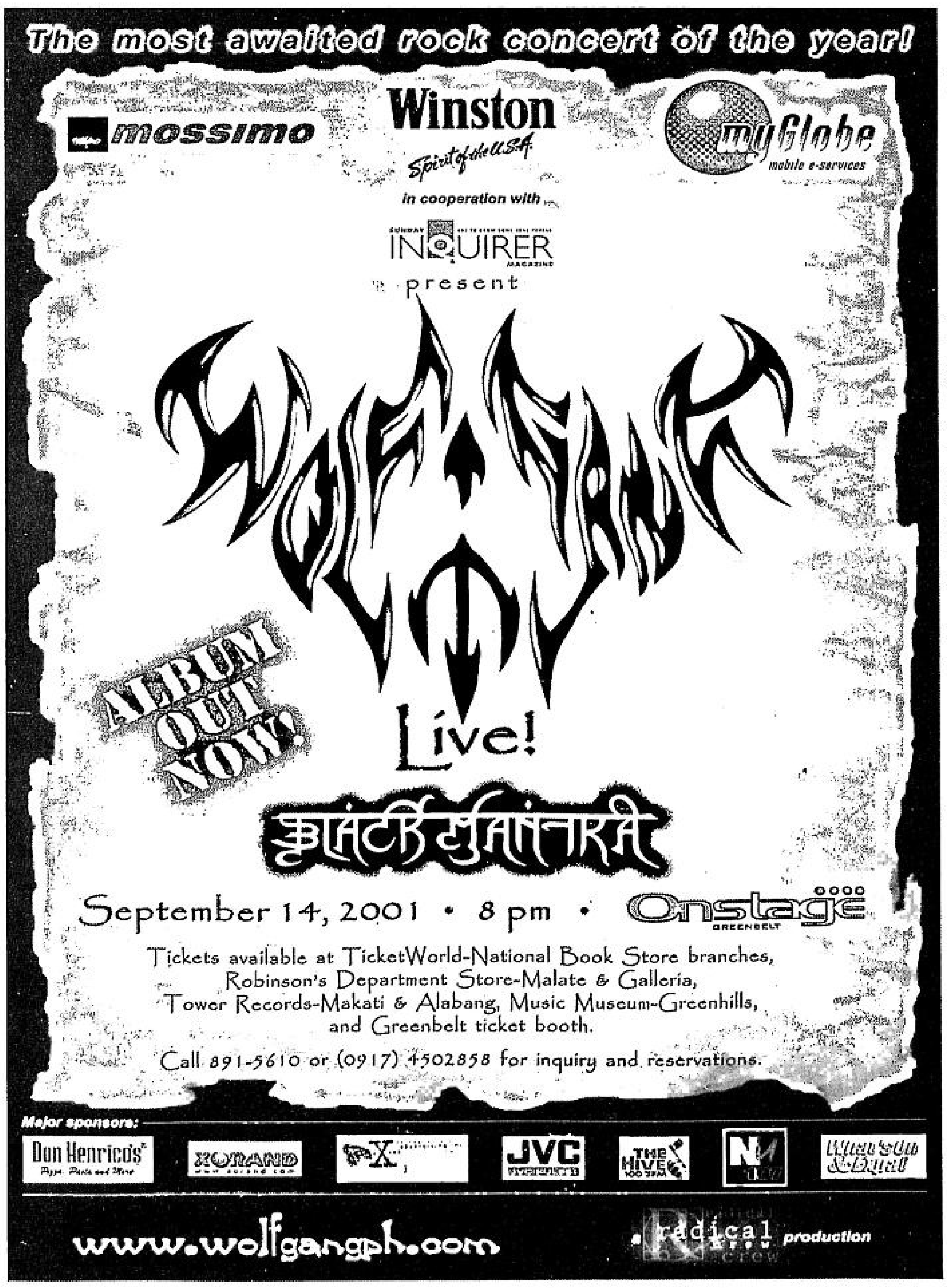

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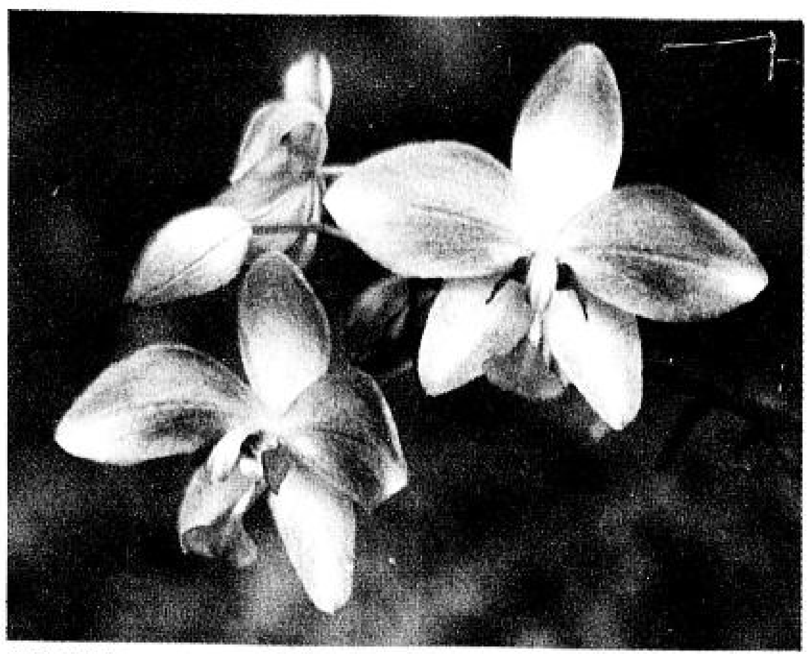
Barely surviving but still thriving, the Makiling Botanical Garden houses and preserves species endemic to the Philippines

THE WILD (and native) strawberry


A NATIVE and still unnamed *spathoglotis sp.*

***MUSSAENDA** philippica*, mother of all Doña ornamentals

news when it was first discovered in Mt. Makiling. In 1854, Joseph Lindley, an English botanist, brought the first-ever sample to London's Royal Horticultural Society where he deliberately misinformed the eager audience that it had come from Java. The plant continues to make horticultural headlines.

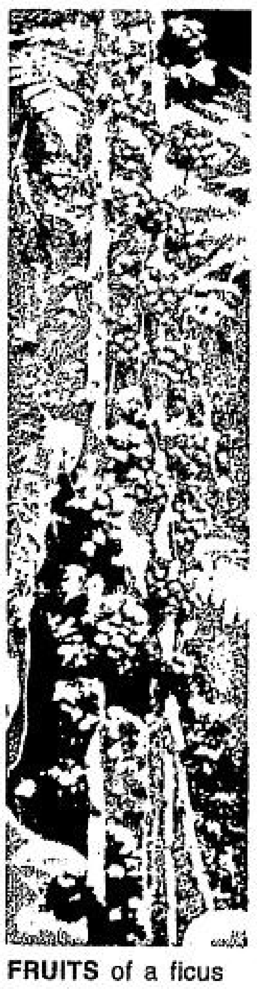
The Philippines has also the most species of *pinanga* palms in the world, most of them wild.

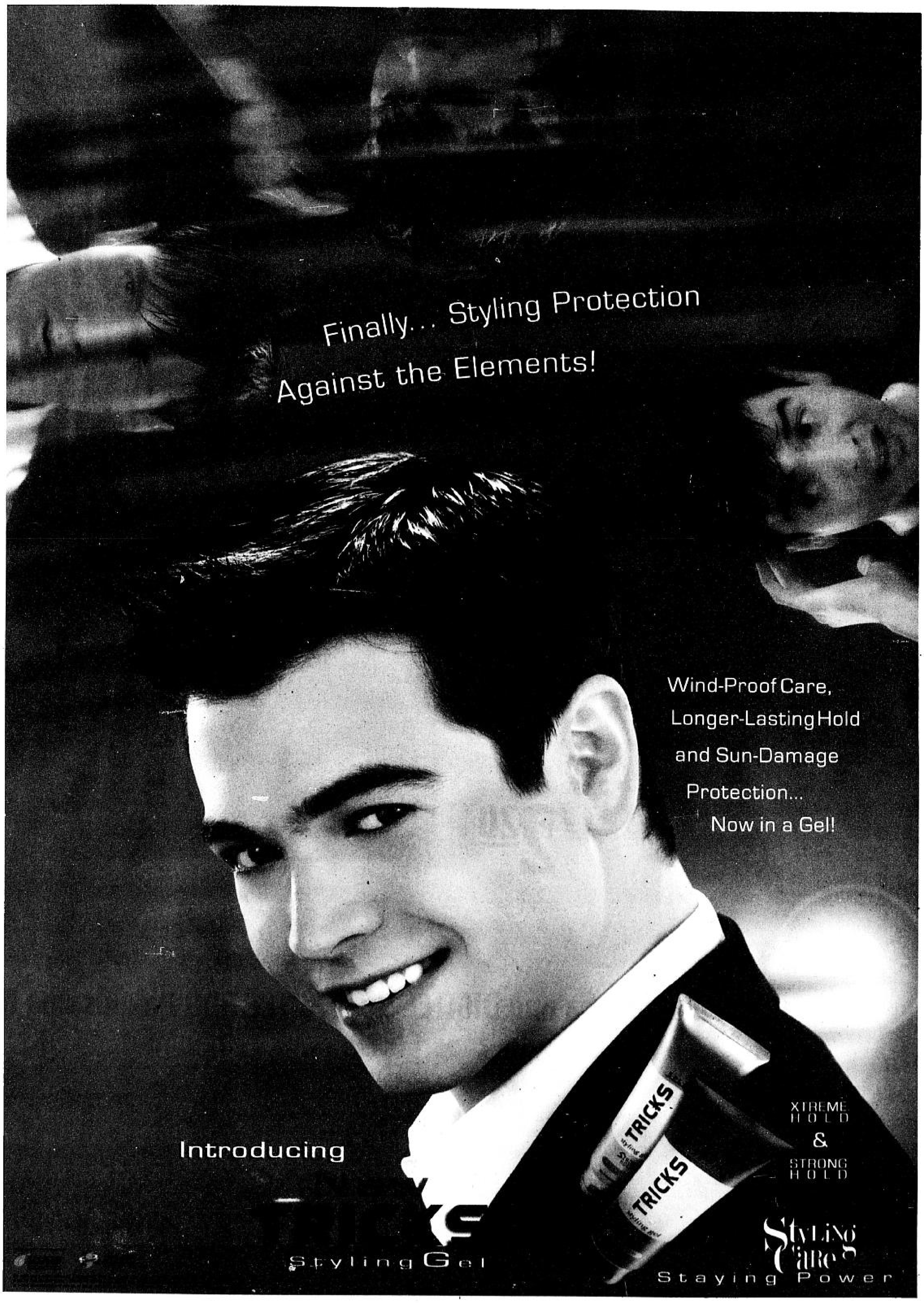
Restrained use

As wide and varied as our botanical resources are, we must be careful in using them. Indiscriminate collection of plants from the wild poses a real threat to the ecology. Unfettered commerce poses the same threat on our flora, too. While we do rely on certain institutions to improve our knowledge of our environment, it is up to us to educate ourselves and practice conservation. Toward this, everybody is enjoined to help in the upkeep and programs of the Makiling garden.

A visit to the MBG will take you a good hour's hike along the forest trail where the *palmetum* and *bambusetum* are located. At the end of this trail is the Center for Philippine Raptors where captive hawks and eagles and other birds of prey are kept and bred. Here one can catch a glimpse of the Philippine Eagle, commonly (and mistakenly) known as the monkey-eating eagle. Guided tours are the best way to get the lowdown; they cost P50 an hour. But be sure to book one in advance as the expert guides are few.

On Sept. 8, the MBG will be celebrating the traditional Arbor Day with its Festival of Trees. On display will be bonsais from different bonsai societies around the country. To get to the Makiling Botanical Gardens one simply has to go to the University of the Philippines Los Baños, Laguna. E-mail them at makiling@laguna.net or call (049) 536-3572/2637.


FRUITS of a ficus species



LADYSLIPPER orchid among ferns

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

GRAND prizewinner is Albino Phalaenopsis equestris

Orchid lovers press on with passion, in or out of season

BY TITA V. GIRON

IF the Philippine Orchid Society (POS) is 55 years old now and still going strong, so are the senior members who have been growing orchids for many, many years. Now in their 70s and 80s but still evidently hale and hearty, they were honored and feted at the opening ceremony of the POS garden show at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

It did not surprise us to see Cebu City's grand matriarch Felisa Chiongbian cutting the ceremonial ribbon and unveiling the commemorative tablet that honored the POS founding members. Her long romance with orchids and the trophies she has won are well known. Still going strong in her 80s, she said her passion for orchids is her "fountain of youth."

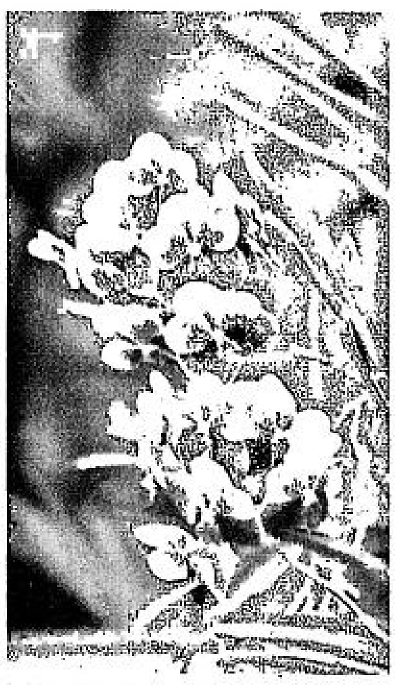
The return of old members to the show ground, however, was upstaged by the exciting reappearance of long-forgotten native orchids at the exhibit and competition areas. It was a reunion of sorts, the old members rediscovering long-lost favorite orchids like the rare albino *Phalaenopsis equestris* and the *Cattleya digbyana* hybrid.

Not extinct

All white and very rare, the native *P. equestris* alba is highly sought by collectors. It disappeared from the scene for many years and collectors thought it was extinct. That it won prizes, including the grand award for owners Cora and Anna Purificacion, was only to be expected. The particular plant was a consistent and well-cultured clone. The good news is that growers will propagate the rare plant so it will not become extinct.

Also featured are other orchid species such as Philippine lady slippers, *waling-waling*, *phalaenopsis* and vandas. From the looks of it, avid orchid fanciers will not be stopped from viewing their favorite plants. We heard that despite the rains and heavy traffic, they came to see the show. They also bought garden supplies at the market section and listened to horticultural lectures and demonstration in the afternoon.

For us, it was a well-spent afternoon. Seeing the white *P. equestris* once more was worth it, but discovering a beautiful native angel-wing begonia was even more exciting. It had white flowers and polka dots on the wings. According to owner Adeling Almazar, the lady who grows African violets successfully, she grabbed the begonia when she saw it among the wild plants hawked by a vendor. She promised to mass-propagate the plant and make it available to interested collectors.



WALING-WALING orchid is Philippines' pride.

Then, too, we had a rewarding mental exercise when we got into a heated discussion with someone over fake and original *waling-waling*. We also debated on the issue of whether or not the *waling-waling* is really an endangered species. It seems that fake *waling-waling*, because of its high commercial value, has been flooding the market for many years and collectors don't even know it.

Here's a word of advice to folks who are planning to see the show: Bring your car. There's ample parking space and security guards. Enter the gate facing Commonwealth Avenue. Remember to bring your rain gear. And be prepared to pay the entrance fee to the exhibit (P30 for adults and a special price for children and students).

The first prizewinners of the orchid competition are: *Dendrobium sanderae* owned by Kelvin Manubay; Cattleya Magic Meadow "YH" x B. *Digbyana* of Herminio Ong; *Phalaenopsis hakalau* Queen "America" of Cora and Anna Purificacion; *Oncidium makalii* "Gotoh" of Teresa Baldonado; *Vanda sanderiana* of Vic Chin Jr.; *Paphiopedilum glaucophyllum* var. album of Jun Golamco; *Phaius* species of Purificacion; and *Phalaenopsis equestris* alba of Purificacion. *Phalaenopsis equestris* alba bagged the following top awards: best Philippine species, best cultured orchid and best in show.

According to events chair Rex Puentespina, the orchid show ends on Sept. 9. Interested folks who want to be members of the POS can write to Philippine Orchid Society, P.O. Box 13226 or call Jun Golamco at 438-5397. Regular activities of the society are social and educational meetings every month, plant tours, publication of the orchid magazine Waling Waling and orchid shows.

She wants to win the man of her dreams

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I met this guy a year ago during an outing. We did not really hit it off, but a few months later he texted me and I replied. We went out several times on dates. A year passed while seeing each other, but one day he just stopped calling me and avoided me.

When we talked, he told me he was not ready for a commitment and was not financially stable. He could not give me a good life.

Was that an excuse? When I saw him again, I realized I still love him, and I could feel that he still cares for me. How can I get him back? I really love him very much. I'm willing to wait for him until he is ready. Is there a chance for us to be together again?

JASMINE

Several times in the past I answered letters with a similar problem like yours, only on different levels. However, I have just one reminder for all of you: Let a man chase you until you can catch him.

All through the ages, it is the man who has to be convinced that he is doing the courting. He has to feel that he has won the love of his life. If it is the woman who pursues him, he may welcome her for a while, but he will gradually lose interest. If they eventually get married, years later he may meet a girl who might win his heart.

To answer your question as to whether there will be another chance for the two of you: Of course, anything can happen. He may be able to earn more, if it is true that he is not financially stable. You know, to attract a man you have to be gracious, interesting and be the woman he admires. You have to accept the fact that he is not ready for a commitment. And since you are willing to wait for him, stay serene, live each day to the fullest, do what you have to do without wasting your time just thinking of him. You can spend some time in the evening, remembering the times you spent together. Mental telepathy works, but don't count on it. Something yet may happen in the future: He may meet another girl, and you may yet meet another man who will be attracted to you.

I follow your column and I appreciate the wisdom shared. You are an old soul and I recognize the familiarity of vicarious experiences. Thank you for the blessing you have been to so many others. Kudos and God bless.

I attended Jimmy Licauco's seminar on soul mates some years back. I was so fascinated with the play of his aura that I was unable to absorb much of the learning. Serendipity would have enlightened me in more mysterious ways.

ALICIA

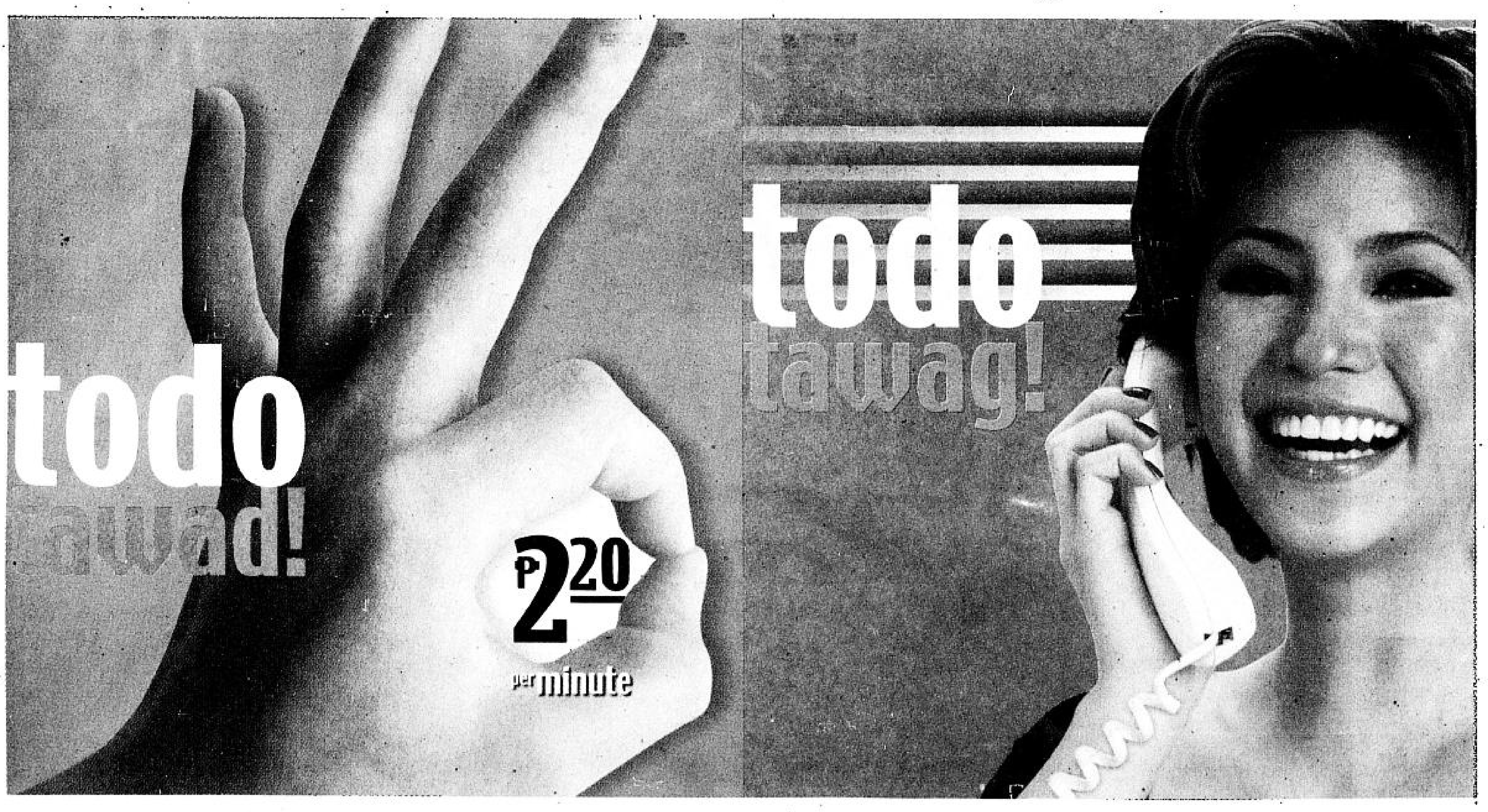
Why don't you get in touch with Mr. Licauco and find out when he will conduct another seminar? Meantime, I suggest you read his new magazine "MBS" (Mind, Body and Soul).

I read Mr. Crisostomo Miranda's letter titled "Message to a Love Lost" last Aug. 9. His letter touched me and I want to tell him personally. This may be the 1000th request you have received and Mr. Miranda may not want his e-mail address revealed. If so, can you please just give him my e-mail?

mkapauan@cds.ca

Here is Mr. Crisostomo N. Miranda's address—many others have also requested it: 11 Matatag St., Quezon City. By the way, the manner you typed your e-mail differs from what I saw on your Netscape message: mkapauan@CDS.CA.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.



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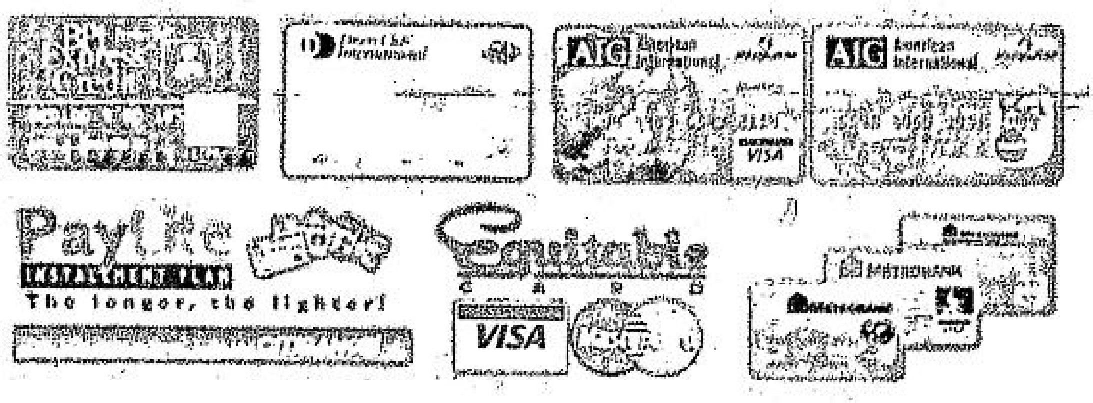

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FREE

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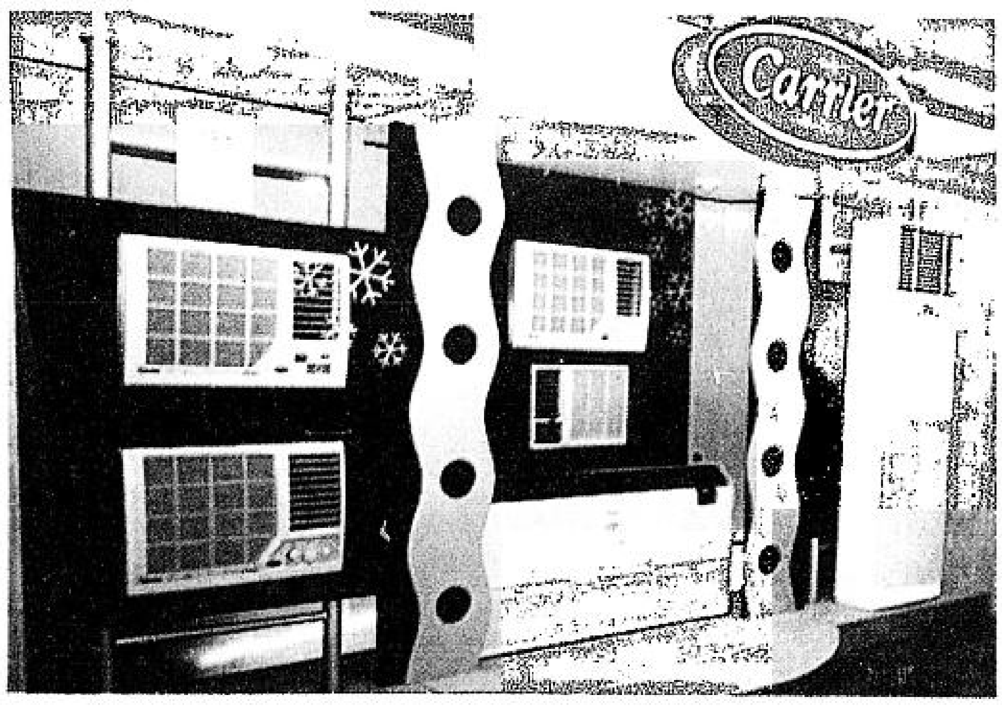

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

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At the Quest – 0% Interest Promo

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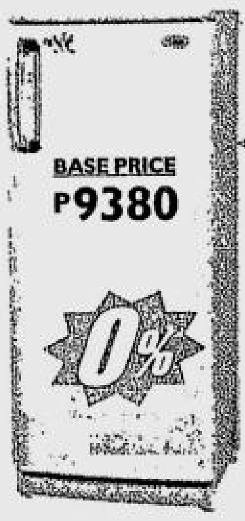
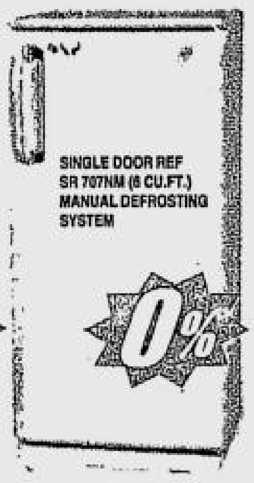

SINGLE DOOR REF
S4-807NM (7 CU.FT.)
210 LITERS

CARD PRICE
P3127
x 3 mos.

BASE PRICE
P9380

0%


SINGLE DOOR REF
SR 707NM (6 CU.FT.)
MANUAL DEFROSTING
SYSTEM

CARD PRICE
P2936
x 3 mos.

BASE PRICE
P8808

0%

PHILIPS

0%
FREE
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CTV 34PT6361
(34") BLACK MATRIX
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CARD PRICE
12667
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P76000

0%
Free Mic & VCD
Software
VCD COMPONENT
FW320
2200W PMPO

CARD PRICE
P1199
x 12 mos.

BASE PRICE
P14380

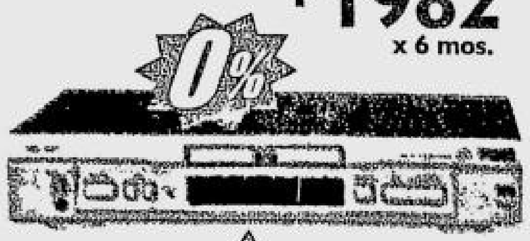
SHARP

CTV 21VK200S
510mm 21" MTS
STEREO COLOR TV

BASE PRICE
P11888

CARD PRICE
P1982
x 6 mos.

0%

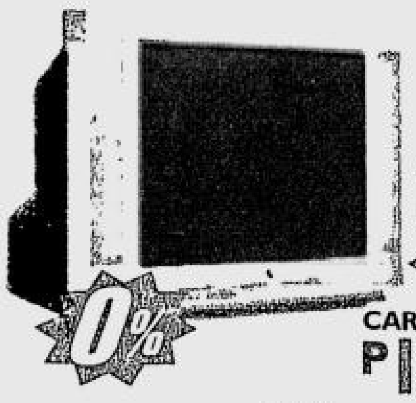

DVD PLAYER
DV720T
ADVANCED DIGITAL
SUPER PICTURE

CARD PRICE
P2333
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P13998

0%

SONY


CTV KV-XA25N90
(25") FD TRINITRON
VIDEO MULTI-SYSTEM

BASE PRICE
P34800

CARD PRICE
P11600
x 3 mos.

0%

CARD PRICE
P7000
x 3 mos.

BASE PRICE
P20999

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CCD TRV618
20X OPTICAL ZOOM

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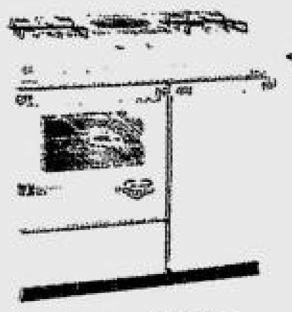
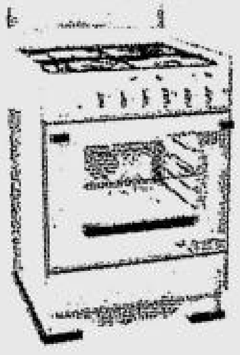

0%

GAS RANGE
T1720 EBKTRS

CARD PRICE
P3245
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P19470

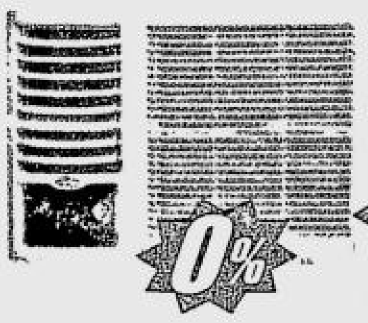

0%

GAS RANGE
6031 MS BLACK

CARD PRICE
P3360
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P20160

Carrier


ROOM AIRCON
AGNRT070BB
3/4 HP

CARD PRICE
P4859
x 3 mos.

BASE PRICE
P14575

0%

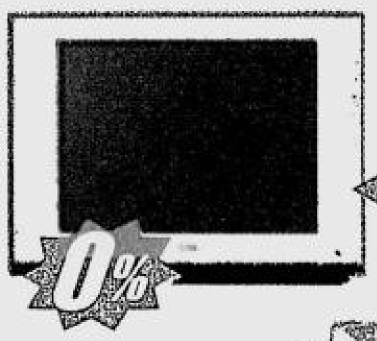
0%

SPLIT WALL AIRCON
HWL42PGA013

BASE PRICE
P30668

CARD PRICE
P10223
x 3 mos.

LG


CTV CP21Q22G
21" PICTURE TRUE FLAT

CARD PRICE
P2667
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P16000

0%

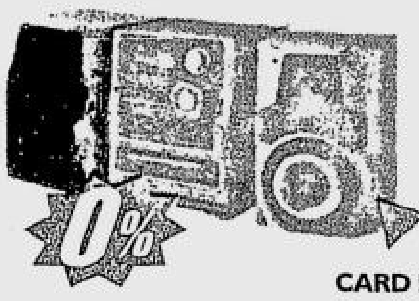
11 kg. WASHING MACHINE
WF1132TH

CARD PRICE
P3333
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE
P19995

0%

aiwa


VCD COMPO
NSX WVT99
10,000W PMPO

BASE PRICE
P24490

CARD PRICE
P4082
x 6 mos.

0%

0%

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NSX WV89
4000W PMPO

CARD PRICE
P3415
x 6 mos.

BASE PRICE P20490

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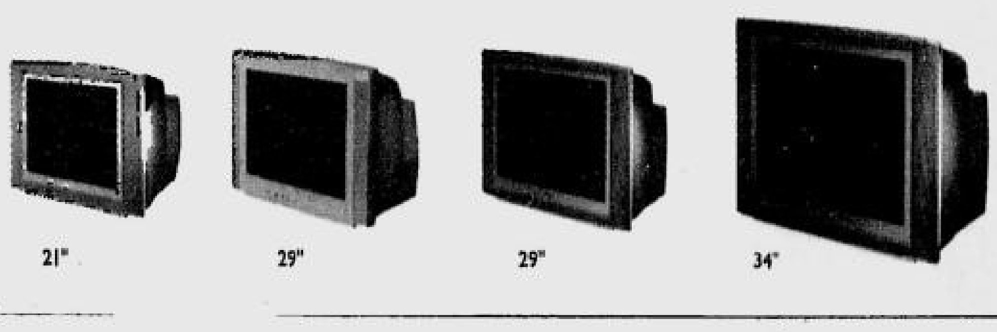

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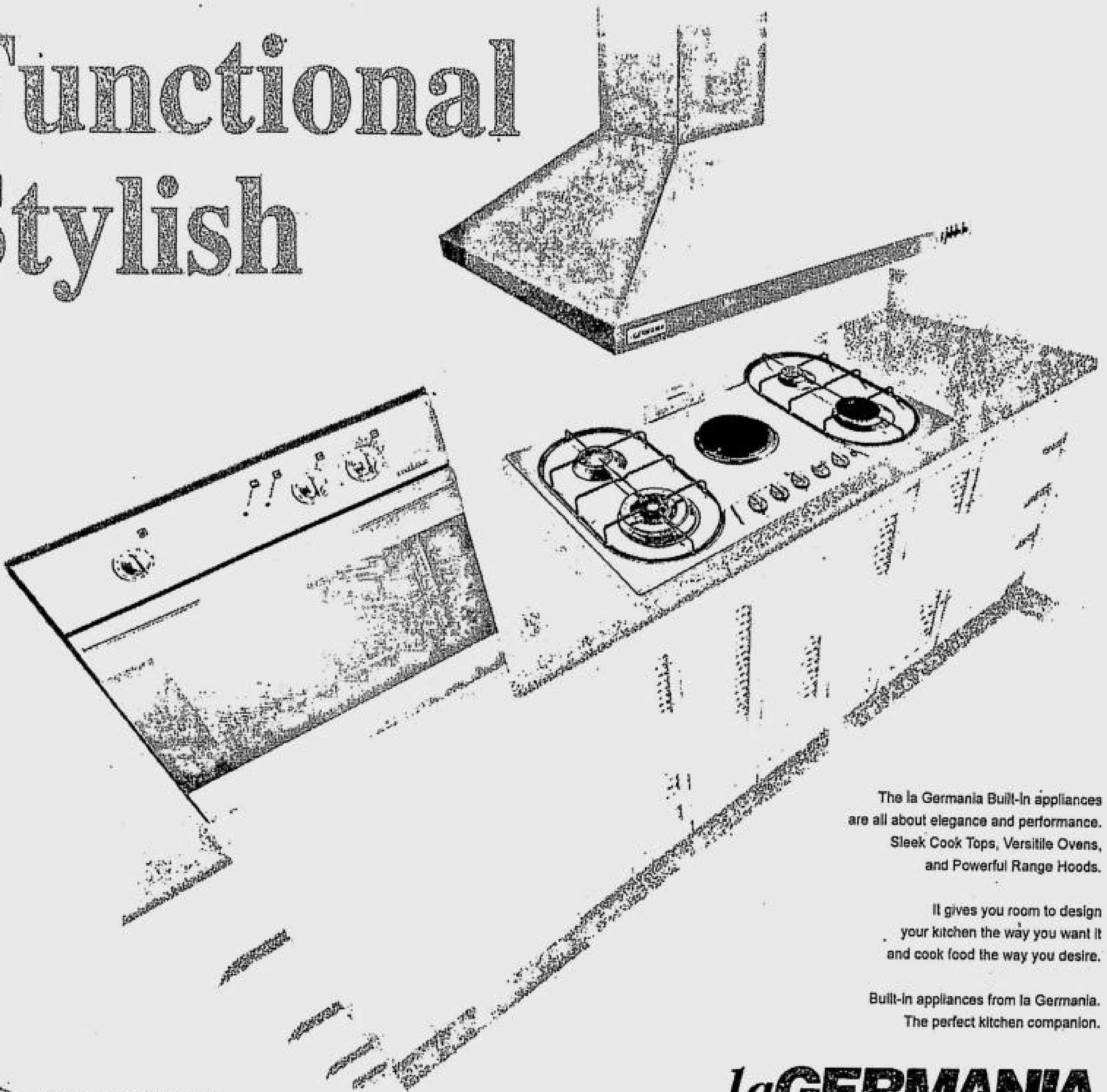

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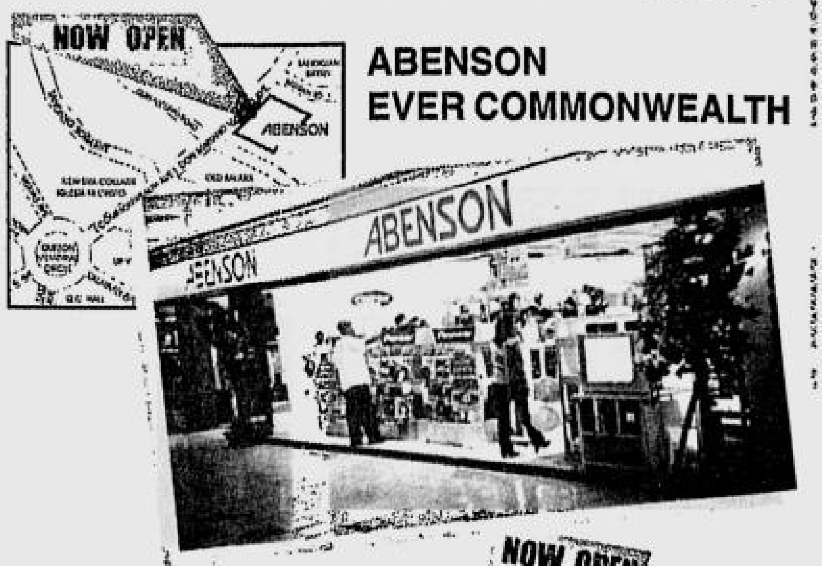

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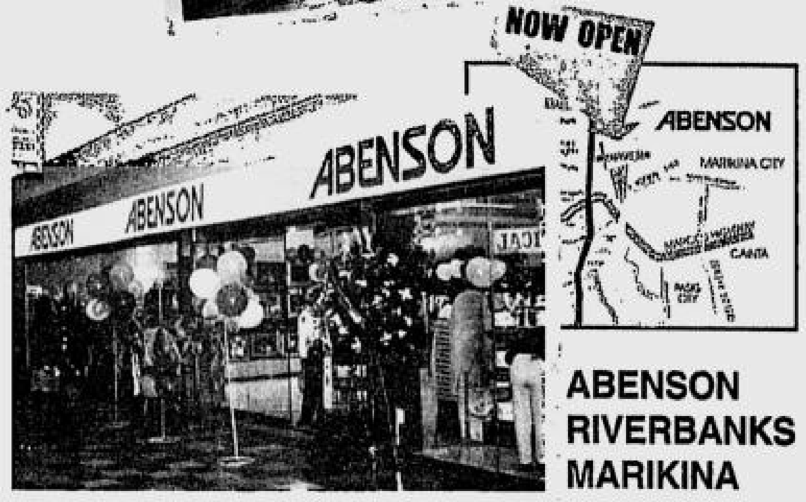

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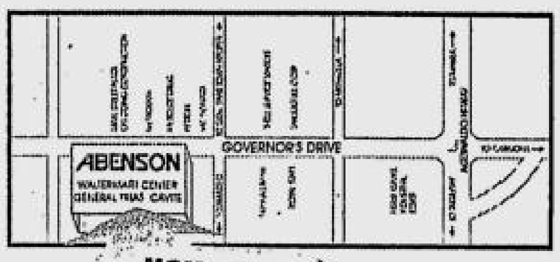

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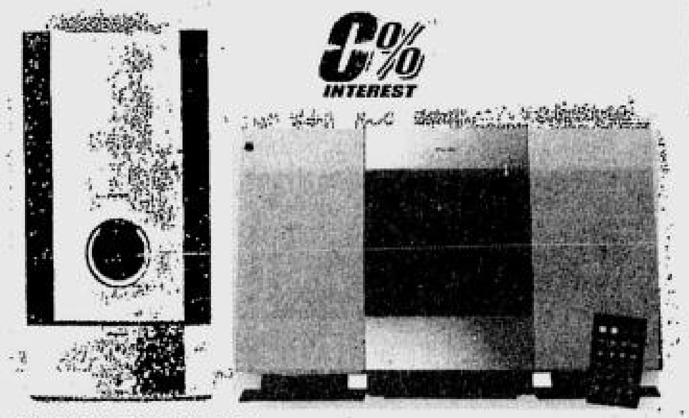

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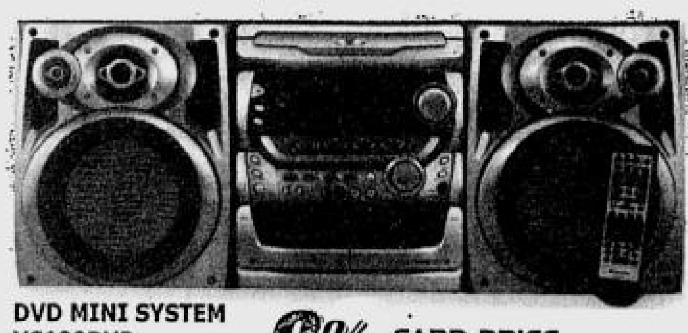

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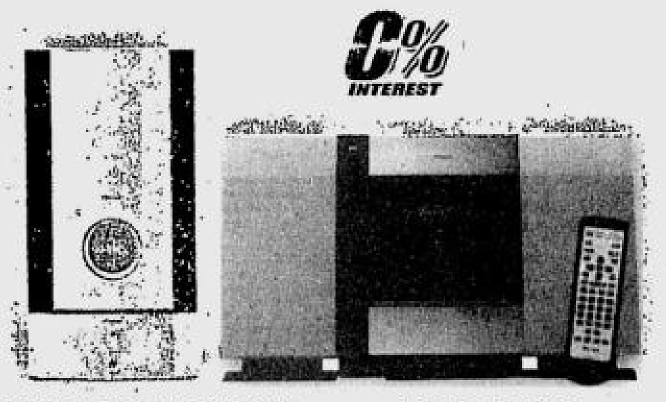

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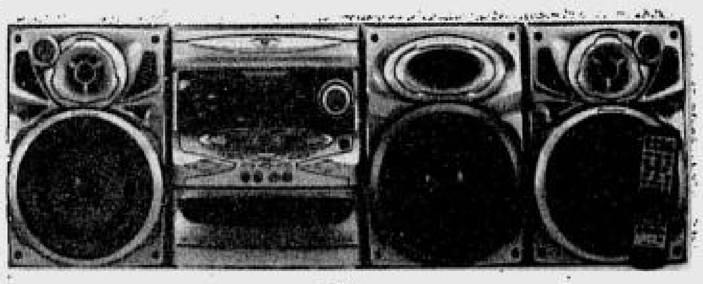

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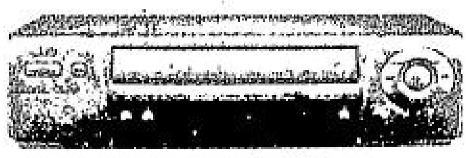

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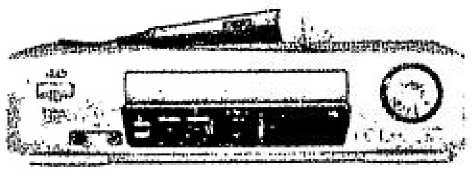

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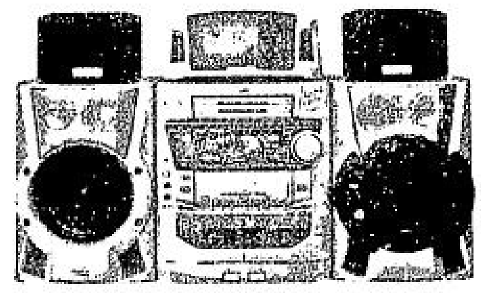

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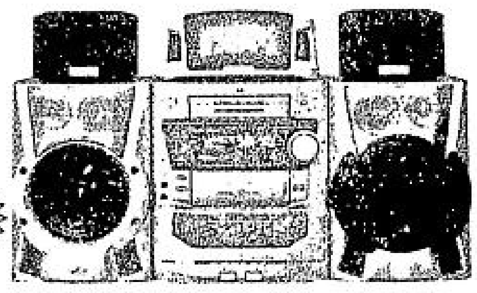

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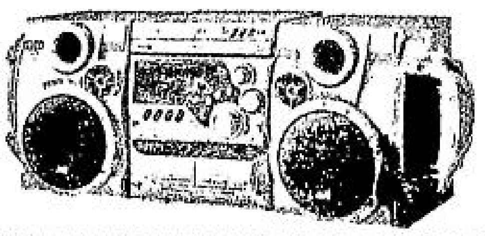

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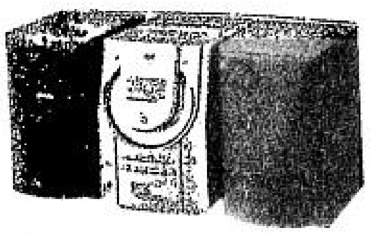

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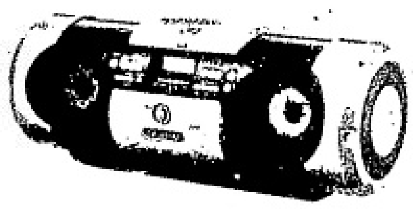

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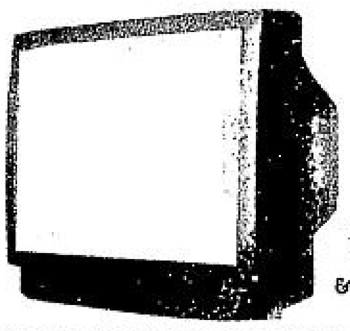

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There will be two major draws. On Nov. 24, 2001, fifteen (15) lucky entrants will win the first set of major appliances. For the second draw on Jan. 26, 2002, another 15 appliance winners will be drawn, plus the sole winner of the Mitsubishi Adventure.

This is a way of bringing back to the consumers their continued patronage, as we geared towards greater customer satisfaction.

The Grand Adventure Raffle Promo is in cooperation with Mitsubishi and major appliance manufacturers. It runs from Sept. 7, 2001 to Jan. 20, 2002. See posters for more details.

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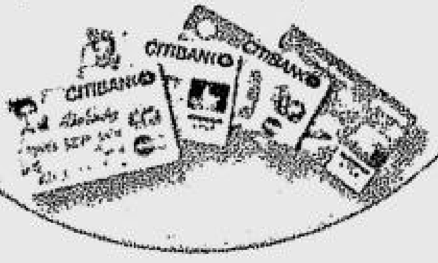
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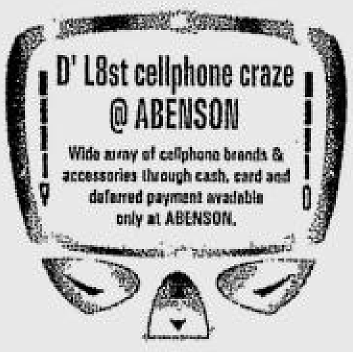

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'Gandhi's charisma, the intellect of Rizal, and the energy of Madonna'

> 'It is only when the teacher commits his being in teaching students will those same students become people with a perfect glaze

BY RAQUEL P. GOMEZ
AND JOEL V. NIGOS

TEACHING is the noblest of all professions.

The mentors' role is crucial because they mold the minds of today's youth. Through their dedication to their task, they help maximize the full potentials of the youth by equipping them with the knowledge and values that will make them become productive, upright and God-fearing citizens; citizens who will eventually shape the country's future.

Today, Metrobank awards 12 teachers for their contribution to the teaching profession. Their personal and professional integrity and character in and out of the classrooms are inspiring and admirable.

The joy of preparing lessons

UP Visayas professor Ma. Nuria Castells, who has taught college for 41 years, traces her love affair with the teaching profession to a school activity when she was a fifth grader in Assumption in Iloilo City. She was a catechist teaching poor children under a mango tree during Sundays.

"Teaching," she says, is a "mission, a discipleship, and a sacred trust." Castells taught first in Assumption Iloilo for 13 years, then in Assumption Osaka, Japan for two years, and now she's on her 26th year at UP Visayas.

She is currently the program director of Barangay Integrated Development Approach for Nutrition Improvement of the Rural Poor (Bidani), a community outreach program of UP Visayas that teaches good governance among barangay officials and helps in poverty alleviation. The program is present in six municipalities and 48 barangays in Iloilo.

Possessing a passion for the arts, Castells has also established three successful dramatic clubs in schools where she had taught and currently teaches. These clubs have staged many plays and some of them are translations into the local dialect.

Castells has also written training manuals for teachers, brochures and a book. She co-authored "Speech Communication: An Integrative Approach", used as textbook and reference of teachers of speech and communication in Region VI.

Castells still has two years left to teach before she plans to retire. She says she plans to go into farming, but her love for teaching will still remain. "Until now, I still feel the challenge, the joy of preparing lessons, of seeing students respond and the fulfillment of knowing former students are leading meaningful and fulfilling lives."

The master potter

"The 'ideal' teacher for me is a composite of several persons," says Ricardo Abad, director of fine arts program, theater director, and professor at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"(He's) one with the charisma of a Jesus Christ or a Gandhi, the intellectual rigor of a Socrates, the nationalism of a Jose Rizal, the spirituality of a Dalai Lama or a Therese of Liseux, and the irreverence and energy of Madonna."

The material girl getting into the ideal—is Abad serious? The humor in Abad's definition of the ideal teacher might as well be a throwback to the well-loved professor. He is warm, vibrant, engaging and funny.

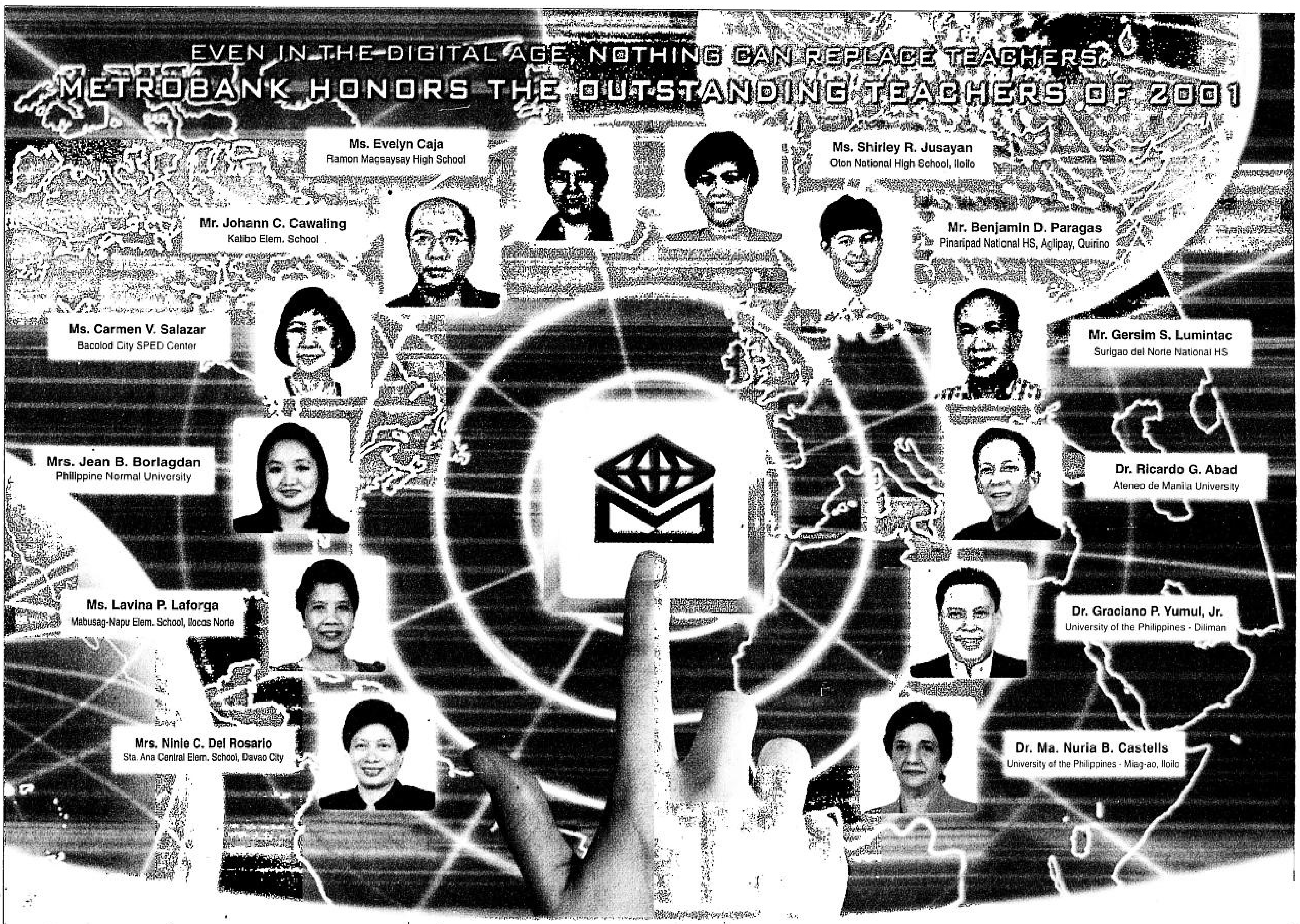
"Students relish my theatrical teaching style, spontaneity, humor and my 'irreverence'," he says.

Abad is a theater person (he's directed 75 productions in Tanghalang Ateneo) and could conjure a lot of images to get to his point.

As a teacher, he likens himself to an old master potter from a Chinese tale. The master potter threw himself to the fire just to produce

GANDHI'S/ G2

RECOGNIZED for a noble pursuit, standing from left, are: Johann Cawaling, Dr. Ricardo Abad, Dr. Nuria Castells, Evelyn Caja, Benjamin Paragas, Gersim Lumintac and Dr. Graciano Yumul. Seated from left are: Ninie del Rosario, Jean Borlagdan, Carmen Salazar, Lavina Laforga and Shirley Jusayan. JOHNNY VILLENA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Mr. Benjamin D. Paragas
Pinaripad National HS, Aglipay, Quirino
Ms. Carmen V. Salazar
Bacolod City SPED Center
Mr. Gersim S. Lumintac
Surigao del Norte National HS
Mrs. Jean B. Borlagdan
Philippine Normal University
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Ateneo de Manila University
Ms. Lavina P. Laforga
Mabusag-Napu Elem. School, Ilocos Norte
Dr. Graciano P. Yumul, Jr.
University of the Philippines - Diliman
Mrs. Ninie C. Del Rosario
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'Gandhi's charisma, the intellect of Rizal . . .

(From page G1)

> The mentors' role is crucial because they mold the minds of today's youth. Through their dedication to their task they help maximize the full potentials of the youth by equipping them with the knowledge and values that will make them become productive, upright and God-fearing citizens

the perfect glaze. The potter—or the teacher—sacrificed his life to contribute to the perfection of each vase—or the students.

"It is only when the teacher commits his or her being in teaching students, or the people he or she serves, will those same students, like those porcelain vases of ancient China, become people with a perfect glaze."

Abad himself reflects several composite persons. He has accomplished many things you wouldn't expect a single person to accomplish in a lifetime. He is a teacher, a stage director and molder of thespians, created the fine arts program of Ateneo, has produced relevant studies and publications on sociology and statistics, a fellow and board member of the Social Weather Stations, a guest director and actor of CCP's Tanghalang Filipino and many more.

"I see myself as a mustard seed that happened to fall on fertile earth, and has now grown in many ways unimaginable."

The beauty of geology

The world according to Graciano Yumul, who teaches geology subjects at University of the Philippines, is full of fascinating things that can only be appreciated if science is understood and learned.

"The beauty about Geology is that it is an inexact science. The whole earth, which includes the outer space, serves as the laboratory. Nobody has been at the core nor has anybody has seen the mantle beneath the earth's surface. It makes one wonder how interesting and dynamic science is."

This appreciation of science has three connected components in the academic world of Yumul: teaching, research and extension services. Teaching, he says, goes hand in hand with research and extension services. There's a need to always apply what one has learned inside the classroom.

So Yumul, together with his students and with outside funding, has done many researches and has produced a number of publications and instructional materials that are used by the National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) and other government and private institutions here and abroad.

He has also established Summer Institutes in Geology where faculty members of the NIGS go to the provinces to give lectures to elementary and high school teachers and some local government unit personnel.

"The beauty about teaching geology is I helped in producing graduates who are very relevant in our society's goal to develop. They are now doing significant work in the geological field—academic, government sector and the private institutions."

A poor child's triumph

"My life is one of the beautiful success stories that could happen only in the movies," says Ninie del Rosario, a science teacher at the Sta. Ana Central Elementary School in Davao City. "It is like the life of Cinderella."

Nene, as peers fondly call her, refers to the triumph that the teaching profession has endowed on her. She was once a poor child, who at the age of 10 ran away from home and was taken in by her Grade four teacher, who sent her to school.

The Metrobank Award and all the other successes Nene has achieved are confirmations of the goodness of God. "I marvel at how God directed such a nice life story," she says.

The Sta. Ana Central Elementary School is proud to have her. Aside from teaching, Nene is very much involved in extra curricular activities that help other teachers like her. She works as a trainer in the summer project RISE (Rescue Initiatives for Science Education) held at the Ateneo de Davao University.

She currently heads two big organizations in the school—the teachers club and the school cooperative, the latter was registered under her term and was given a funding by the district's congressman.

As a science teacher trainer, Nene also takes the lead in the School Based Training Program by the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports held at the school. For one day, the teachers are trained to become effective and efficient Science and Math teachers.

To Nene, teaching is "life" itself where "every moment is a valuable opportunity to share what she knows."

Equal opportunities for all

With her students, Carmen Salazar, who teaches hearing-impaired Grade one students at the Bacolod City SPED Center, went to a restaurant in Bacolod City. The waiter, noticing that the group spoke in sign language, gave them a pen to write their orders and then remarked "What a pity." Salazar heard what he had said but she did not react and had her students write down their orders. Upon finishing their meal, she asked the bill from the waiter who was very dismayed.

Situations like these prod Salazar to do better in teaching the hearing impaired to make them not pitiable characters unable to function in a society.

"In a democracy, every individual is valuable and should be afforded equal educational opportunities," she says in her essay submitted to Metrobank. "The right to education cannot be denied to a person due to his or her disabilities."

She has been teaching the deaf for 21 years, a profession she says where she has to always put in extra patience, effort and care to teach handicapped children.

She has also involved her students in school and community programs such as mini-Olympics for the disabled and Scouting Jamborees. She has produced a book for the Grade one hearing-impaired, made reference materials and teaching devises in all subjects that are now currently used by the schools in the division levels in the province and region.

Five of her hearing impaired students are now teachers who also conduct special education classes for the handicapped children.

Salazar has a dream—that every special child will attain their "optimum development" and emerge as useful, productive, contributing, law-abiding and well adjusted citizens."

Practical magic in the classroom

Shirley Jusayan, who teaches chemistry to third year high school students in Oton National High School in Iloilo, is a magic weaver—though she doesn't possess a magic wand.

Her tools to dispense magic are ordinary materials such as candles, basin of water, beakers made from dextrose bottles, alcohol lamps made form busted bulbs, and improvised tripods.

She performs with such credible precision that her students are cast in a magic spell as the facts of chemistry unravel before their eyes. Live candles dying in an instant without wind being blown into them, or water disappearing, or pins spinning around. Never has a chemistry class been this exciting and enthralling.

Thanks to the ingenuity and dedication of this teacher to her craft of teaching. Jusayan has made several session guides to make chemistry more understood by the students through what she calls the "practical work approach." This approach in teaching requires an instructor to involve students in more classroom demonstrations or laboratory activities to ferret understanding of the subject matter.

Jusayan says her interest in teaching took time to develop. But after seeing the fascination of her students, she came to love the profession.

Her sights on SPED

Evelyn B. Caja was the special education teacher of Roselle R. Ambubuyog, the visually impaired student who graduated valedictorian at Ramon Magsaysay High School in 1997. Last April, Roselle finished college at the Ateneo de Manila University, graduating summa cum laude.

Caja is a special education (SPED) teacher handling the first to fourth year visually impaired students at RMHS in Manila. She also holds the position of SPED program coordinator of RMHS where her field of specialization is teaching the visually impaired.

She has been teaching for 31 years, 27 years of which as a SPED teacher.

Caja earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree at Philippine Normal University in 1967, obtained her graduate certification in SPED from PNU in 1974, and her Master of Arts in Education (Math) degree also from PNU in 1987.

She authored various instructional materials for visually impaired students. These are now being used in teaching visually impaired students nationwide.

Caja also did a research titled "Development and Validation of Home-Based Instructional Materials for Visually Impaired and Orthopedically Handicapped Learners," a UP-DECS Research Project in 1990.

She was a recipient of various awards as special education teacher given by various reputable organizations. She now focuses on the training of teachers for visually impaired students.

Master of the global language

Jean B. Borlagdan teaches English to Grade V pupils at the Philippine Normal University-Center for Teaching and Learning (PNU-CTL) in Manila. She has been in the profession for 14 years, three years of which was spent at Don Bosco, Makati City.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Secondary Education (BSESE) Major in English degree from Philippine Normal University in 1986, graduating cum laude. She also obtained her Certificate in Wordstar and Database from Don Bosco Technology Center in 1989, her Certificate in Campus Writing and Journalism from PNU in 1991, and Master of Arts in Reading degree also from PNU in 2000.

She authored various instructional materials such as "Funfare Worktext in MAPE" for Grades I to VI, "Huwaran" textbooks and teacher's manual. A good number of the textbooks and teachers' manuals in the primary level she authored are being used nationwide.

Quirino's best

Benjamin D. Paragas teaches English to third year high school students at Pinaripad National High School in Pinaripad Norte, Aglipay, Quirino. He has been in the profession for 16 years.

He is the first outstanding teacher awardee from the province of Quirino. He's now looking forward to becoming a principal in one or two years.

Paragas obtained his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of La Sallete in Santiago City, Isabela in 1994. In 1999, he earned his Master of Arts in Education degree from Isabela Colleges in Cauayan, Isabela. He's currently pursuing his doctorate in philosophy at Northeastern College in Santiago City.

He has authored several instructional materials in English like "Scribble Your Own Verses," "Multidimensional Reading Approach," "Deepen Your Vocabularyservoir," "Decide and Sequence," and "Story Jigsaw". Some of them were published by the Regional Learning Materials Center (RLMC) Region II and used by PROBE schools in the school, division and national levels.

Lending an ear

Johann C. Cawaling has authored various instructional materials for special children like "Workbook in Filipino Braille (One-cell Contractions and Lower Signs)," "Writing Book-Alphabet for Hearing-Impaired Children," and "Children's Verses (Transcribed in Braille)". These materials are being used both in the district of Kalibo II and the division of Aklan.

He has been in the teaching profession for 12 years.

In 1987, Cawaling earned his Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree from Aklan College in Kalibo where he graduated cum laude. He's currently pursuing his Master of Arts in Education degree at Aklan State College of Agriculture and his special education degree at the Philippine Normal University.

In 1997, he established a special education (SPED) class for visually impaired children in the division of Aklan.

He opened another special class last year, this time for hearing-impaired children. To help him in his teaching methods, he solicited 45 hearing aids which cost P25,000 each. These were given free to his pupils.

Cawaling also handles regular classes where he teaches Math and Science to Grade V and VI pupils.

Fun with numbers

Lavina P. Laforga hails from Paoay, Ilocos Norte, and teaches Math to Grade V and VI pupils at Mabusag-Napu Elementary School, Badoc District, Ilocos Norte.

She earned her degree in Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at MMSU-CE in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte in 1971. She obtained her Master in Arts in Education degree in 1979 also from MMSU-CE.

Laforga has produced instructional materials like modules, games, puzzles and improvised teaching aids to help her teach Mathematics to her pupils.

Modules in Math that she produced include "Angles and Polygons," "Fun With Polygons," and "Discovering Points, Lines, Line Segments and Rays."

She was tapped as division trainor in Math and English, a regional level demonstration teacher in Math, a resource speaker and facilitator during in-services training activities and has also initiated several in-service training at the school, district and division levels.

On top the 3rd time around

Gersim S. Lumintac is the first Metrobank outstanding teacher awardee from Surigao City.

He was adjudged semifinalist in 1999 and was finalist in last year's search.

Lumintac has been teaching general science to first and fourth year students for 16 years at Surigao del Norte National High School.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from San Nicolas College, Surigao City in 1984 where he graduated cum laude. He obtained his Master of Arts in Education degree from Agusan Institute of Technology, Butuan City in 2000.

Lumintac was a recipient of the PROBE-BRITE Course Scholarship at University of Queensland, Australia. He has also authored various instructional materials such as "Energy Conservation," "Using Pivotal Learning Terminals to Teach Force," and "Cell Analogy". These instructional materials are now being used by students in the division and regional levels in Surigao del Norte.

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AWARDED IN MALACAÑANG

The 12 awardees of the 2001 Metrobank Search for Outstanding Teachers were conferred their medals of excellence by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a ceremony held recently at the Malacañang Palace. Shown (from left) are Dr. Graciano Yumul of the University of the Philippines-Diliman, Dr. Ricardo Abad of Ateneo de Manila University, Dr. Nuria Castells of the University of the Philippines-Visayas, Gersim Lumintac of Surigao del Norte National High School, Benjamin Paragas of Pinaripad National High School, Shirley Jusayan of Oton National High School, Metrobank chair George S.K. Ty, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Ninie del Rosario of Sta. Ana Central Elementary School, Lavina Laforga of Mabusag-Napu Elementary School, Jean Borlagdan of the Philippine Normal University, Carmen Salazar of Bacolod City SPED Center, Evelyn Caja of Ramon Magsaysay High School, and Johann Cawaling of Kalibo Elementary School.

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Outstanding teachers awards rites highlight Metrobank anniversary

THE AWARDING ceremonies of the Metrobank Foundation Search for Outstanding Teachers 2001 was the highlight of Metrobank's 39th anniversary celebration night. This year's twelve awardees, hailing from the different provinces around the country, were honored at the Metrobank Plaza Auditorium at the bank's Makati headquarters.

Guest of honor Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Metrobank chair George S.K. Ty, Metrobank Foundation president Placido L. Mapa Jr., and Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan Jr. led the conferment of trophies and awarding of cash prizes to the 12 awardees.

The search, which aims to give honor to excellent members of the teaching profession who not only help shape the youth but also serve as models for their peers, is the centerpiece project of the Metrobank Foundation, the bank's philanthropic arm. To date, it has awarded over 190 deserving men and women around the country.

Part of the bank's three-day anniversary celebration was the bank's P10-million donation to 27 charitable institutions and signing of two memoranda of agreement (MOA) between Metrobank Foundation and several development partners. The beneficiaries of the traditional donation turnover ceremony held last Sept. 5 were various health, youth, education, social, religious, civic, and art organizations. The MOA signing formalized the Metrobank Foundation's support for the Sukob Foundation Inc., Resources for the Blind and Ephpheta Foundation for the Blind for the conduct of cataract extraction operations under the Share the Gift of Vision Program; and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI) for the awarding of scholarship grant under the Share the Gift of Education program.

Metrobank also gave out special awards to its loyal employees who have rendered 10, 20, 25, and 30 years of service; and awarded its clients who have patronized and showed loyalty for the bank for the past twenty years.

On Sept. 14, the bank will award the winners of the 2001 Young Painters' Annual art competition, another major project of the Metrobank Foundation. Following the ceremonies will be the formal opening of the painting exhibit featuring the winning and notable entries in the competition.

Metrobank, through the Foundation, sponsors and conducts social development projects throughout the year, year after year. This is part of the bank's efforts to fulfill its responsibilities as a corporate citizen and to share its blessings to the less fortunate members of society.

Metrobank is the country's largest bank with consolidated assets of P458.88 billion as of June 23.

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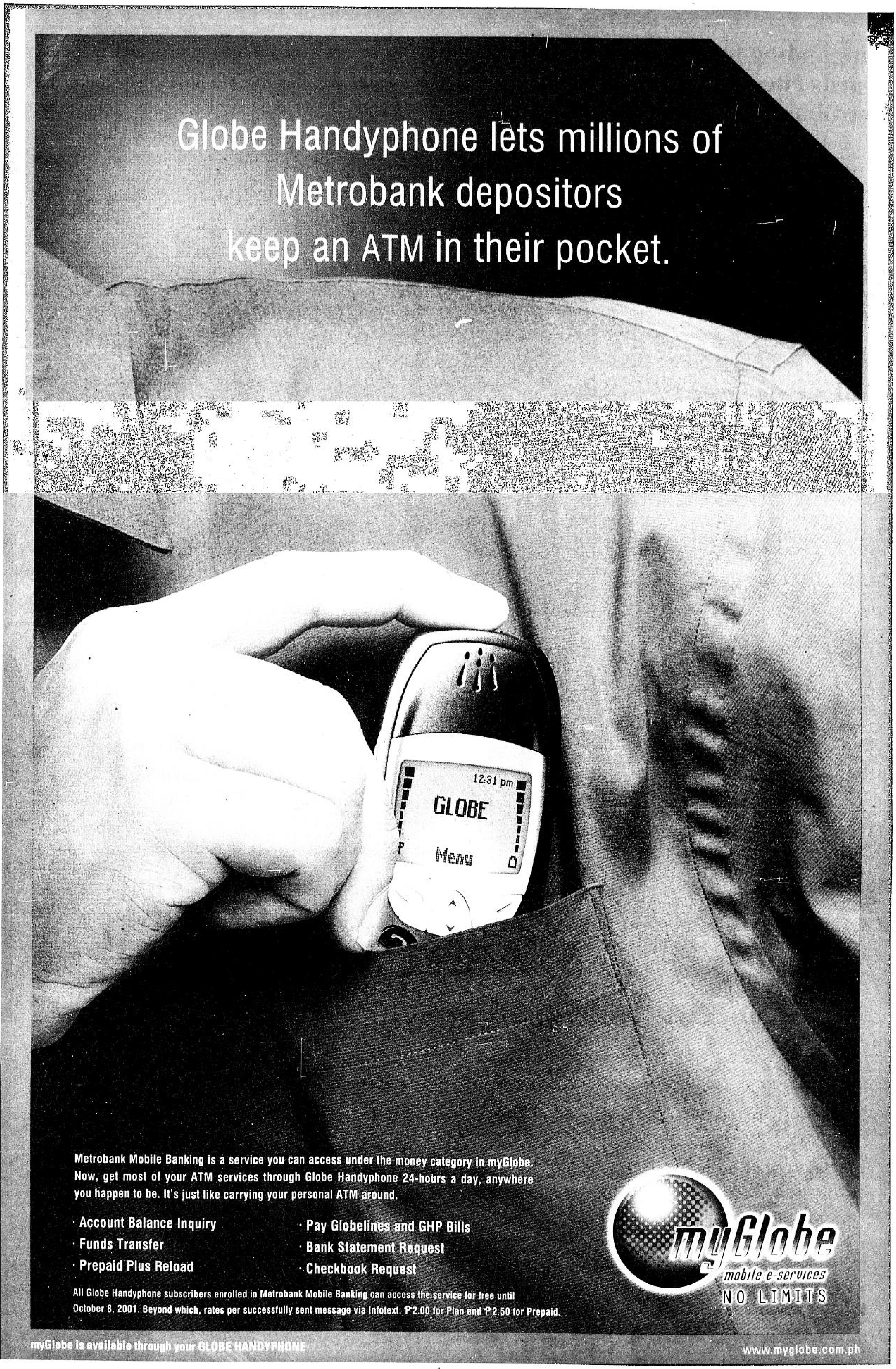
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